# X

## CLAMP

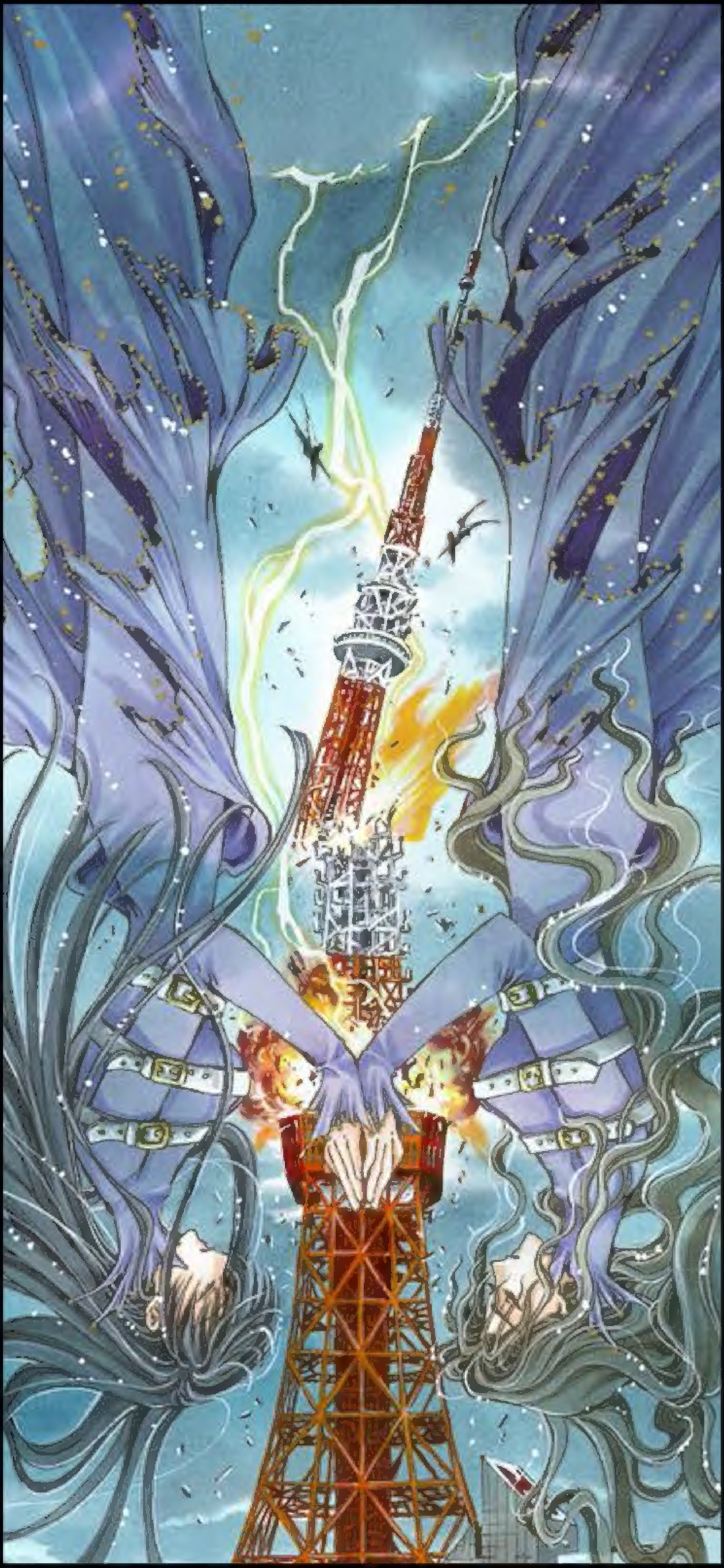
VI 3·IN·1

# X

VOLUME 6, PART 1

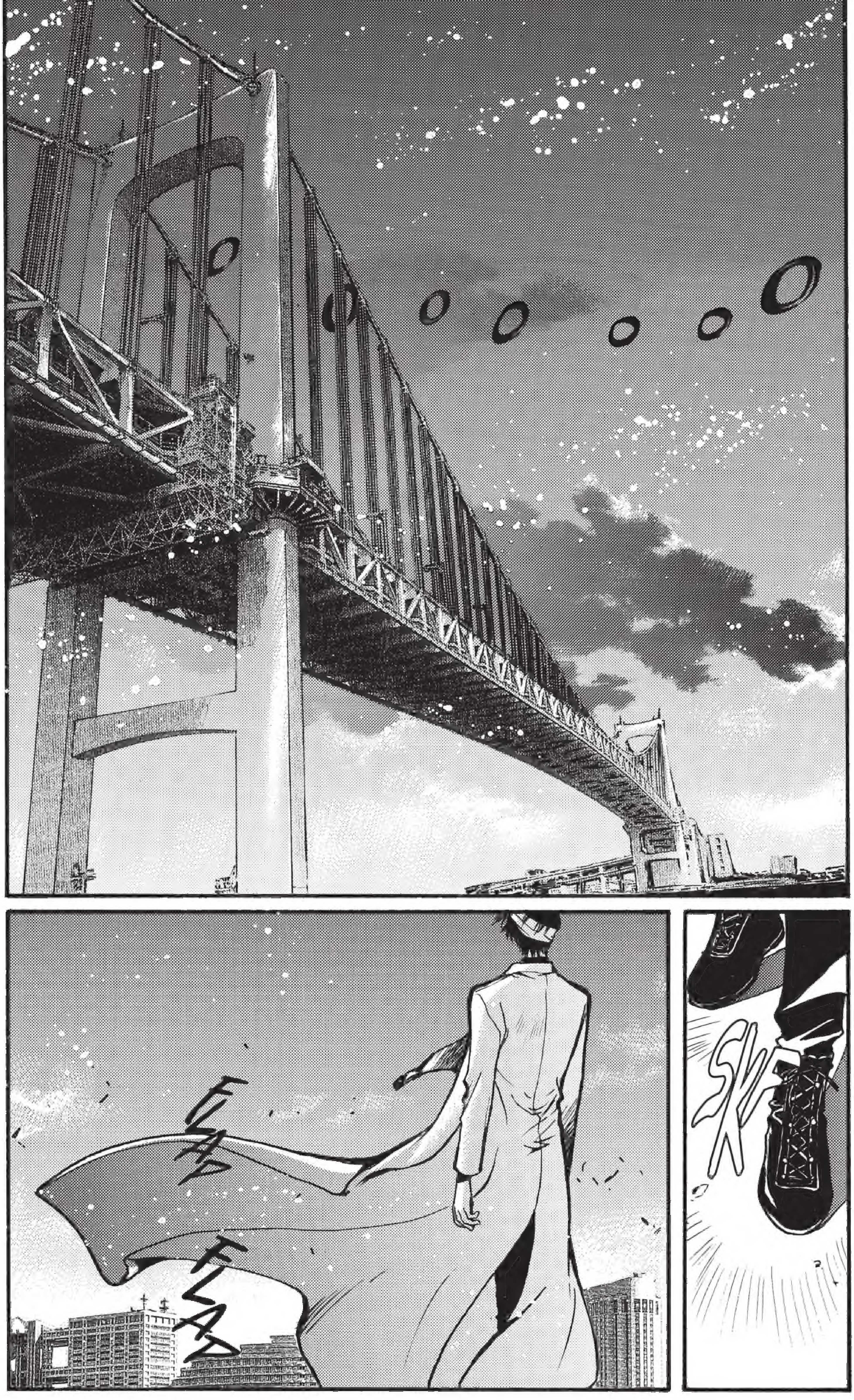
KEKKAI VI

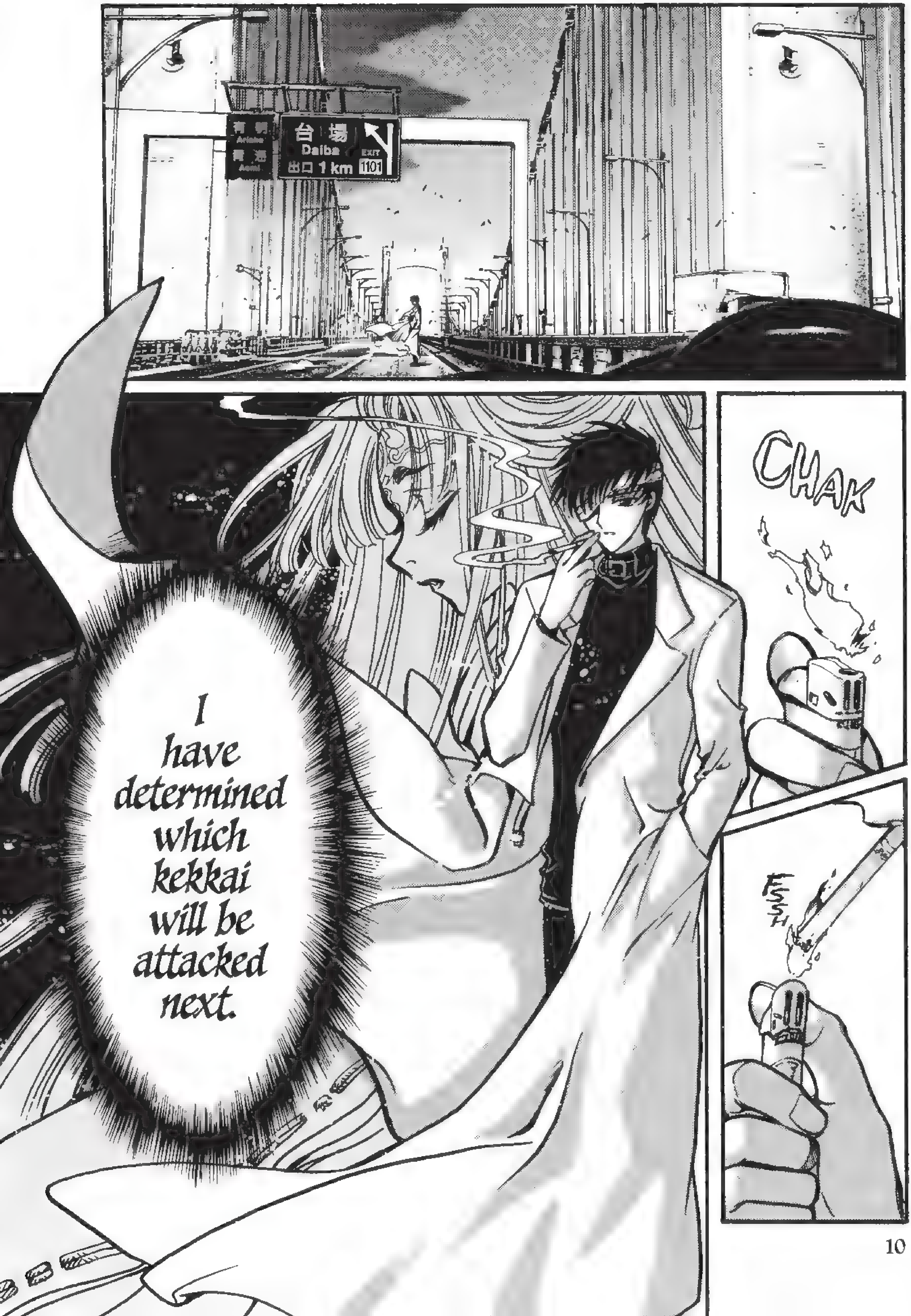
X

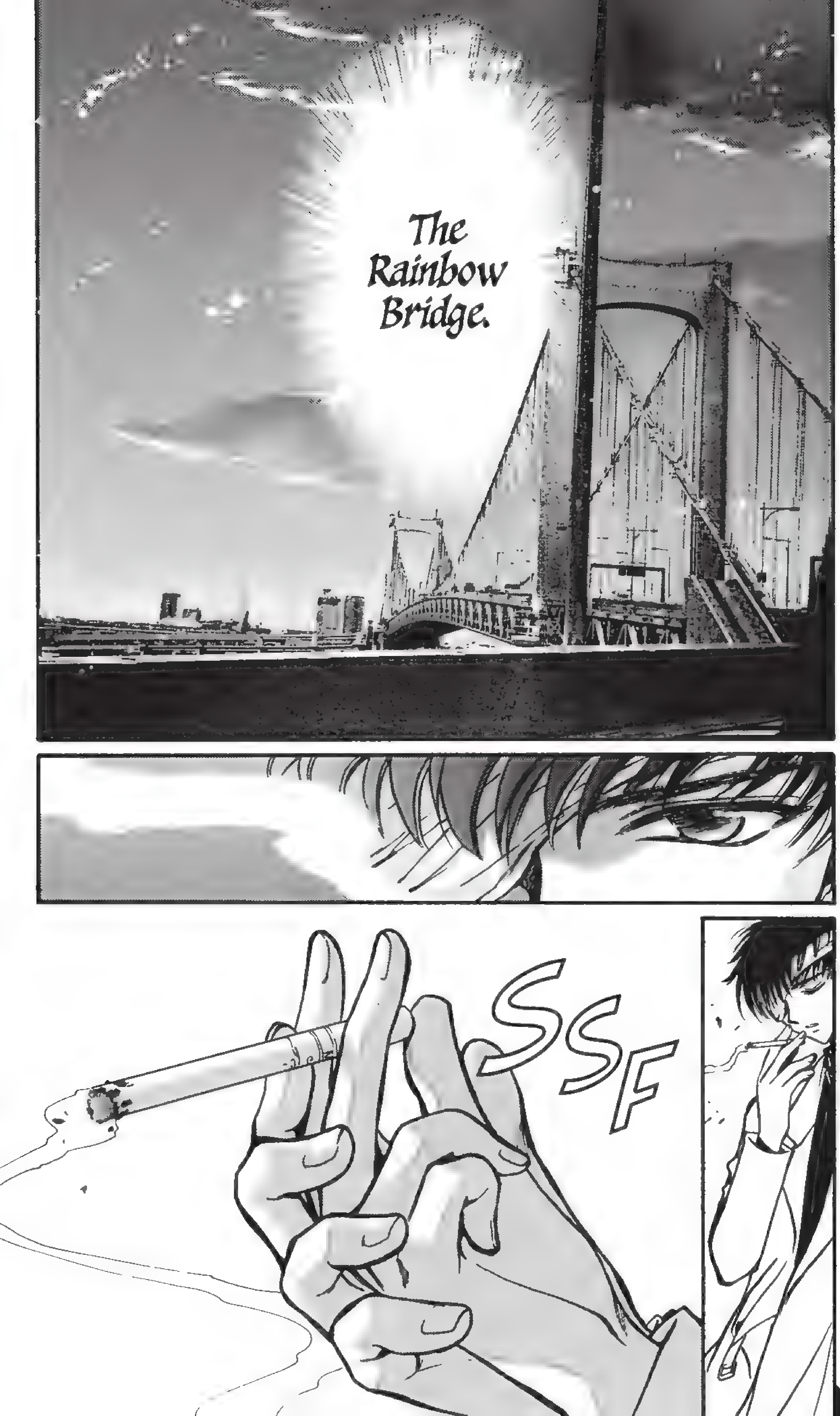


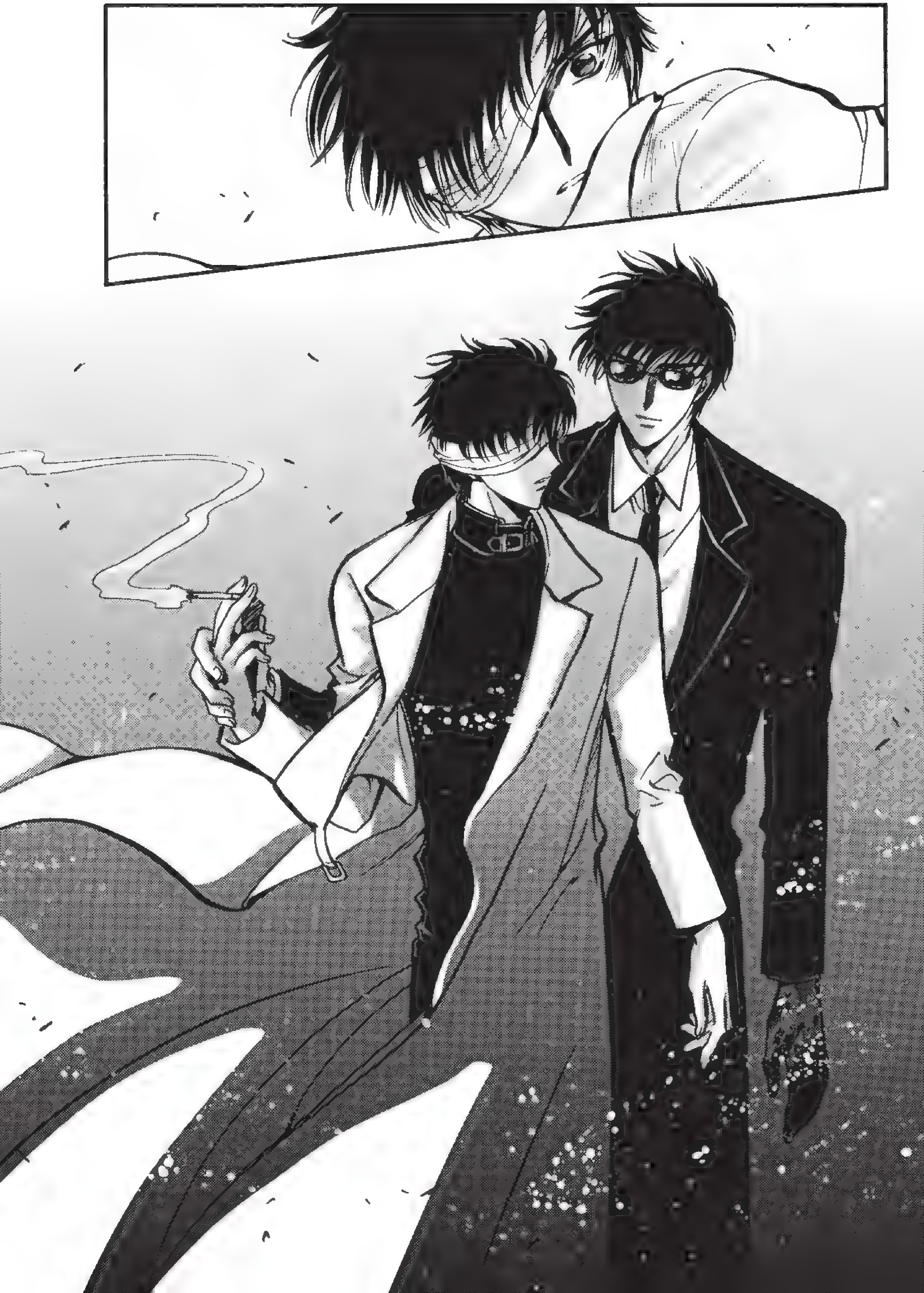
16 THE TOWER

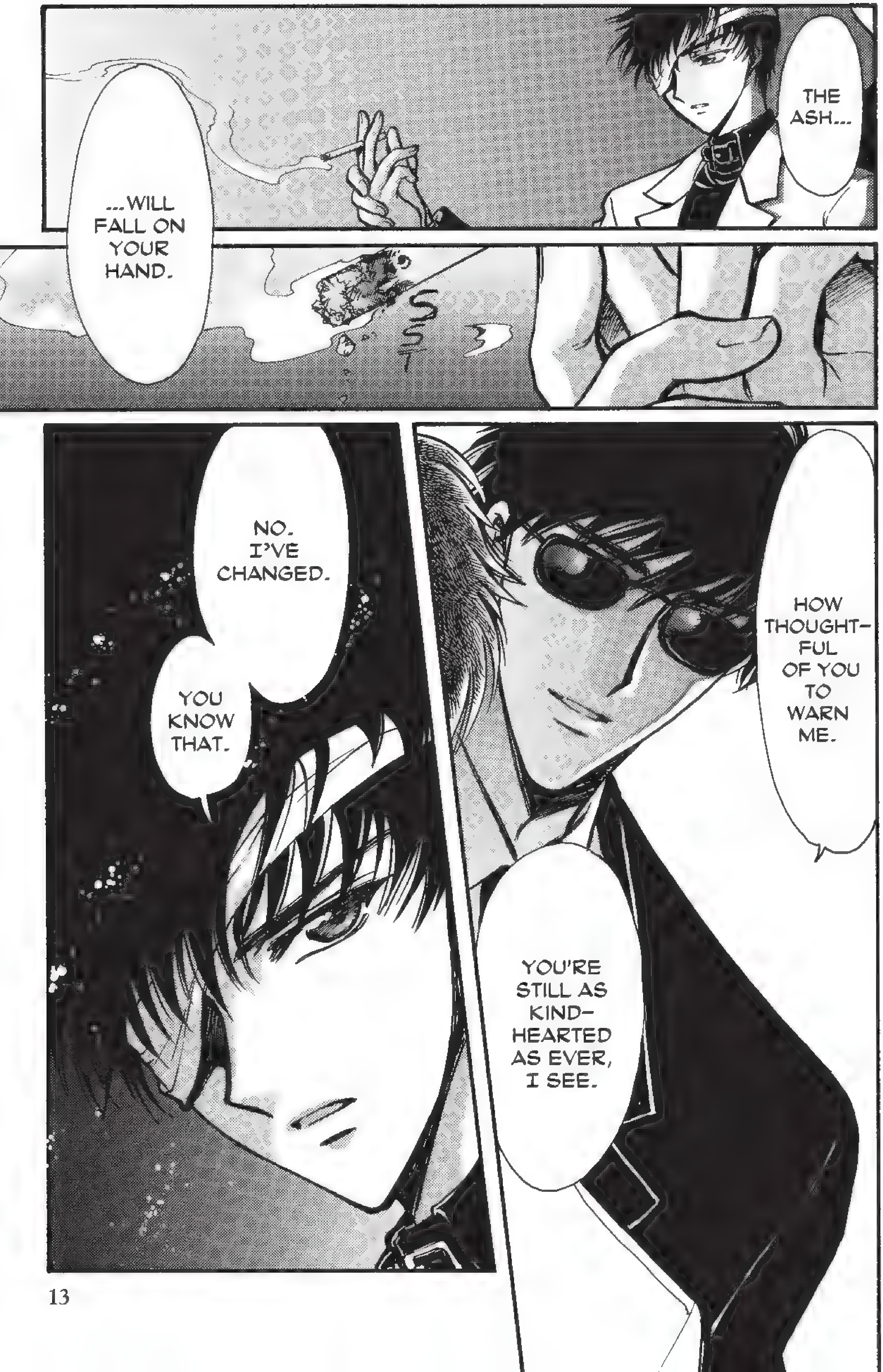
פ


OOOOOOO
SHK
FLAP
FLAP

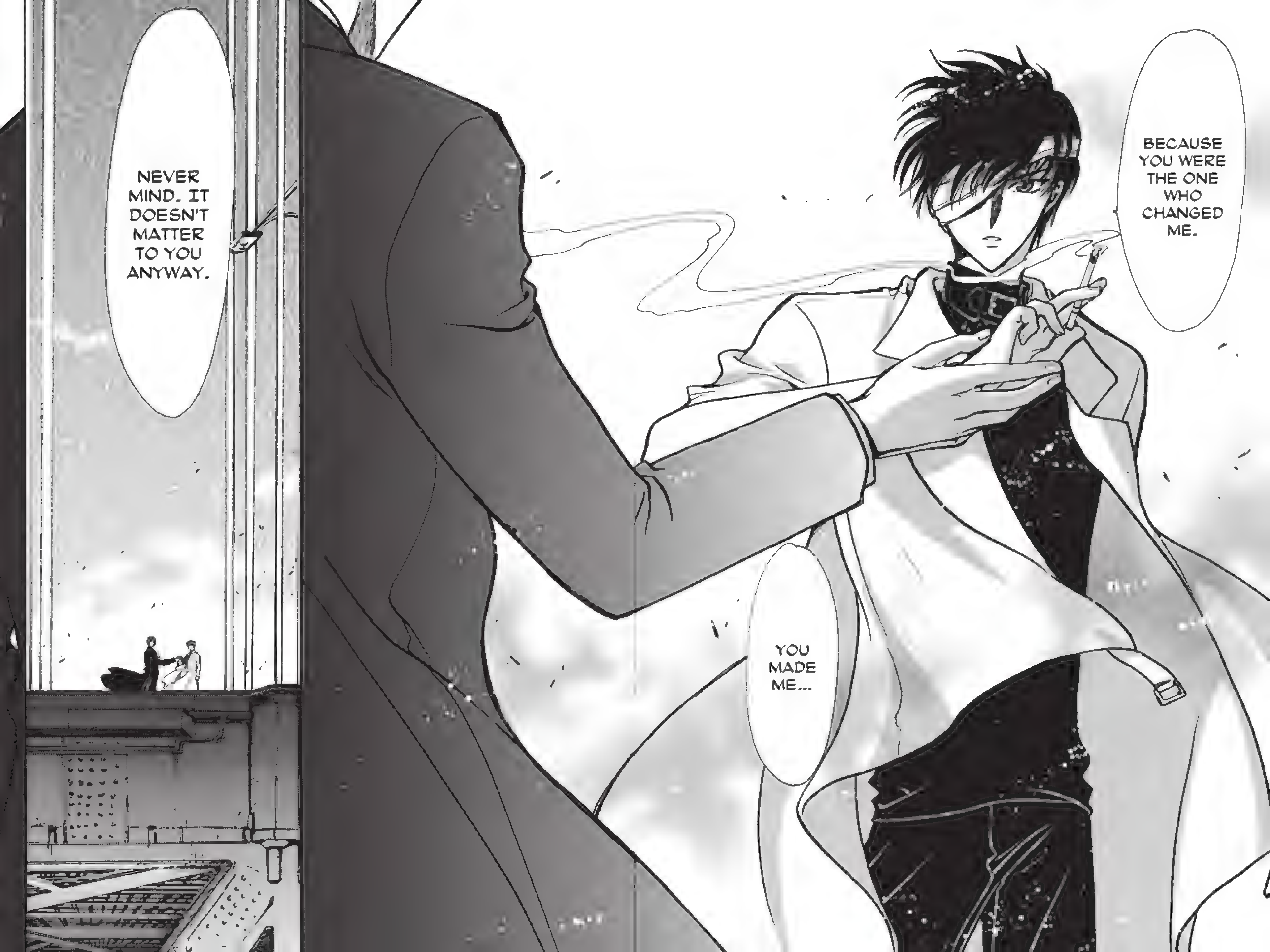

有明
Ariake
青海
Aomi
台場
Daiba
EXIT
出口 1 km
1101
CHAK
FSSH
I have determined which kekkai will be attacked next.

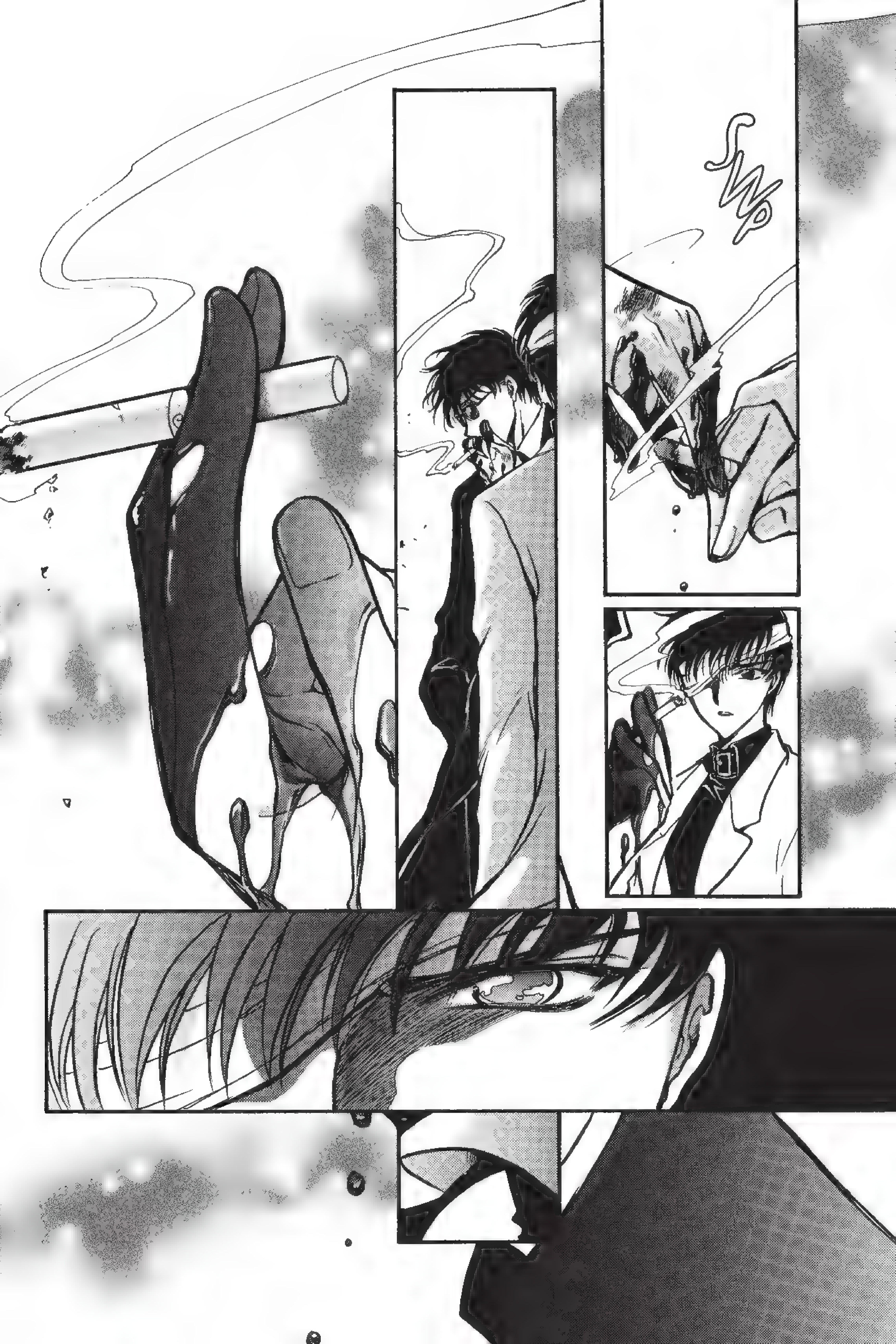

The Rainbow Bridge.
SSF

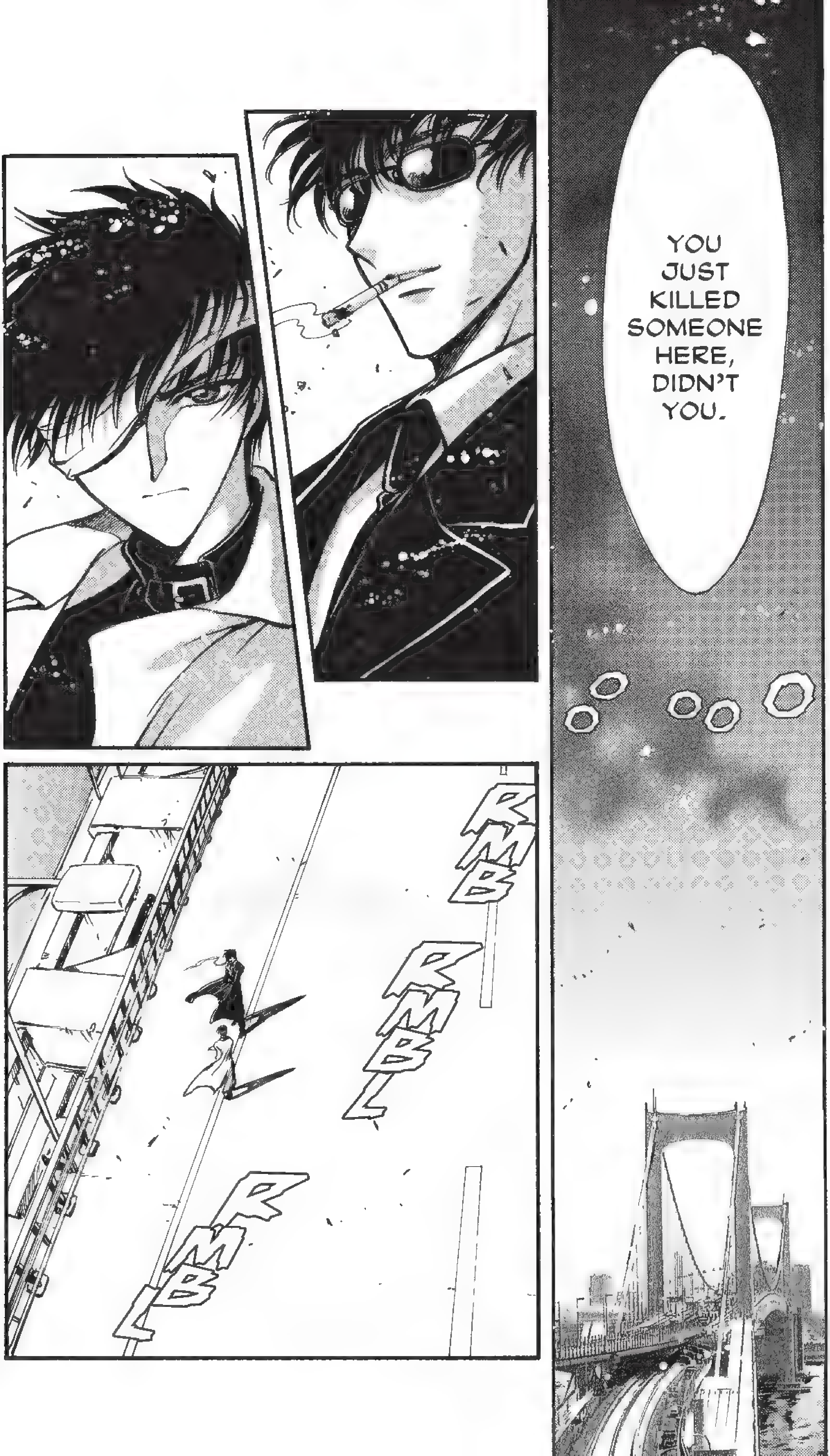


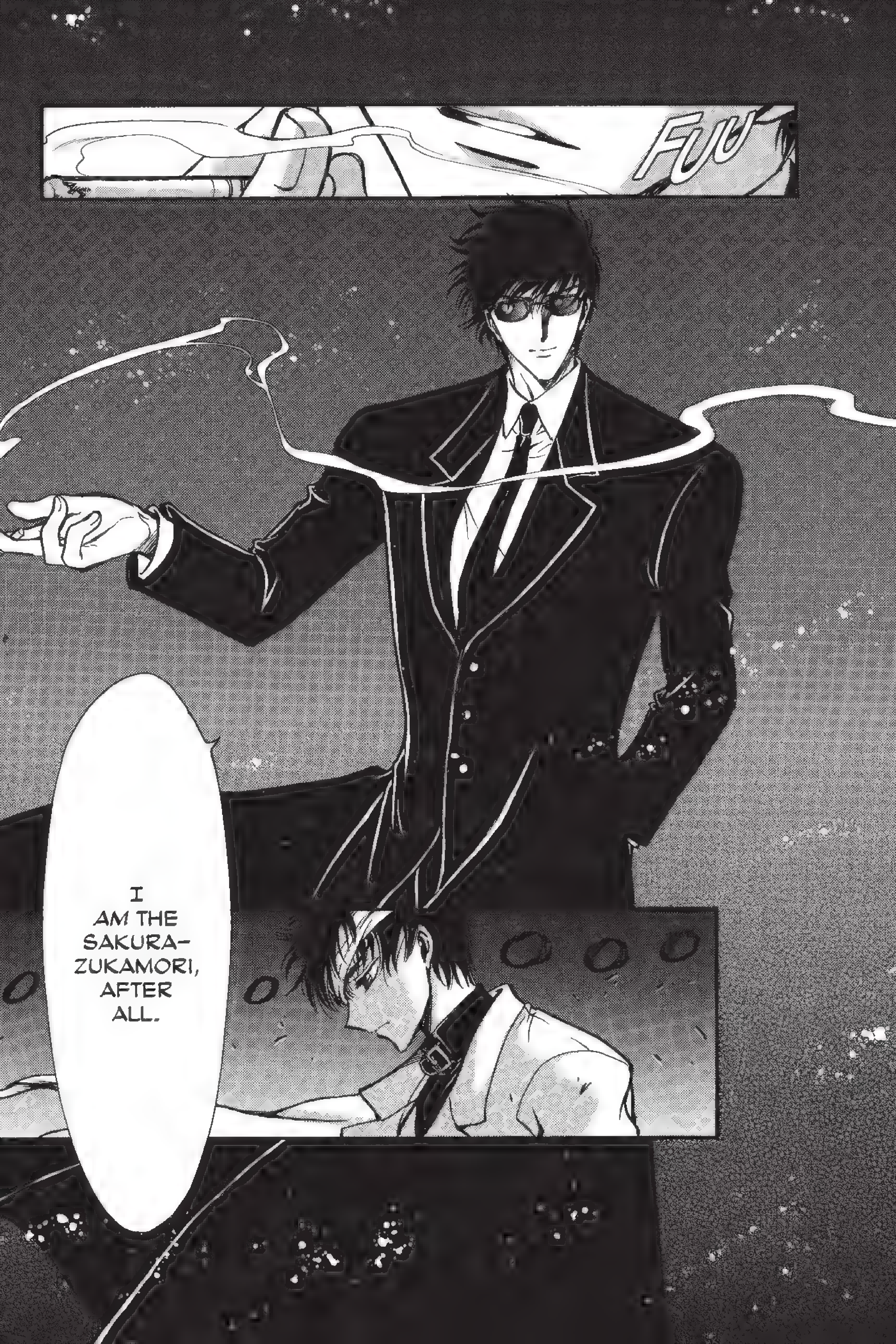

THE ASH...
...WILL FALL ON YOUR HAND.
HOW THOUGHTFUL OF YOU TO WARN ME.
YOU'RE STILL AS KIND-HEARTED AS EVER, I SEE.
NO. I'VE CHANGED.
YOU KNOW THAT.

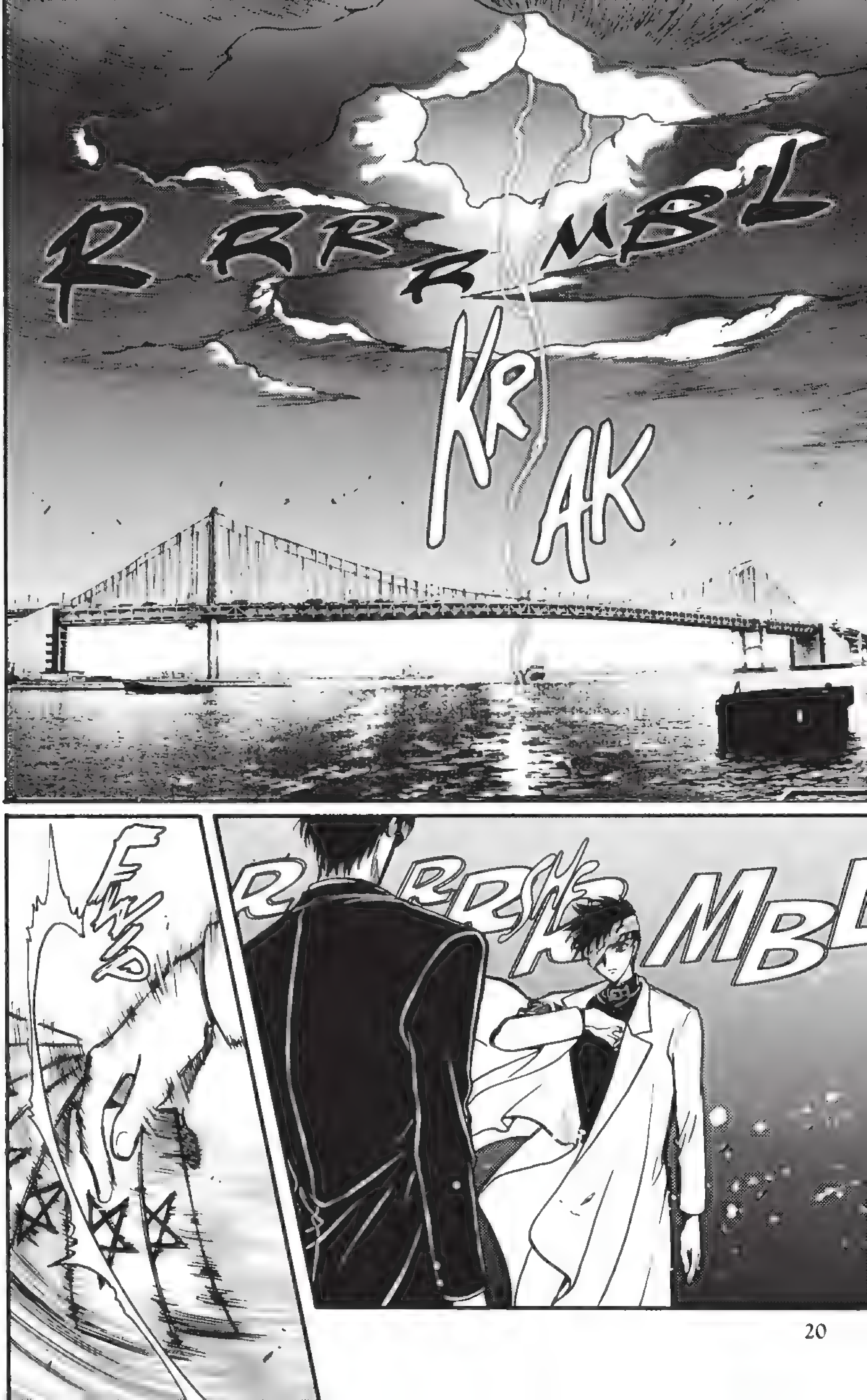
]

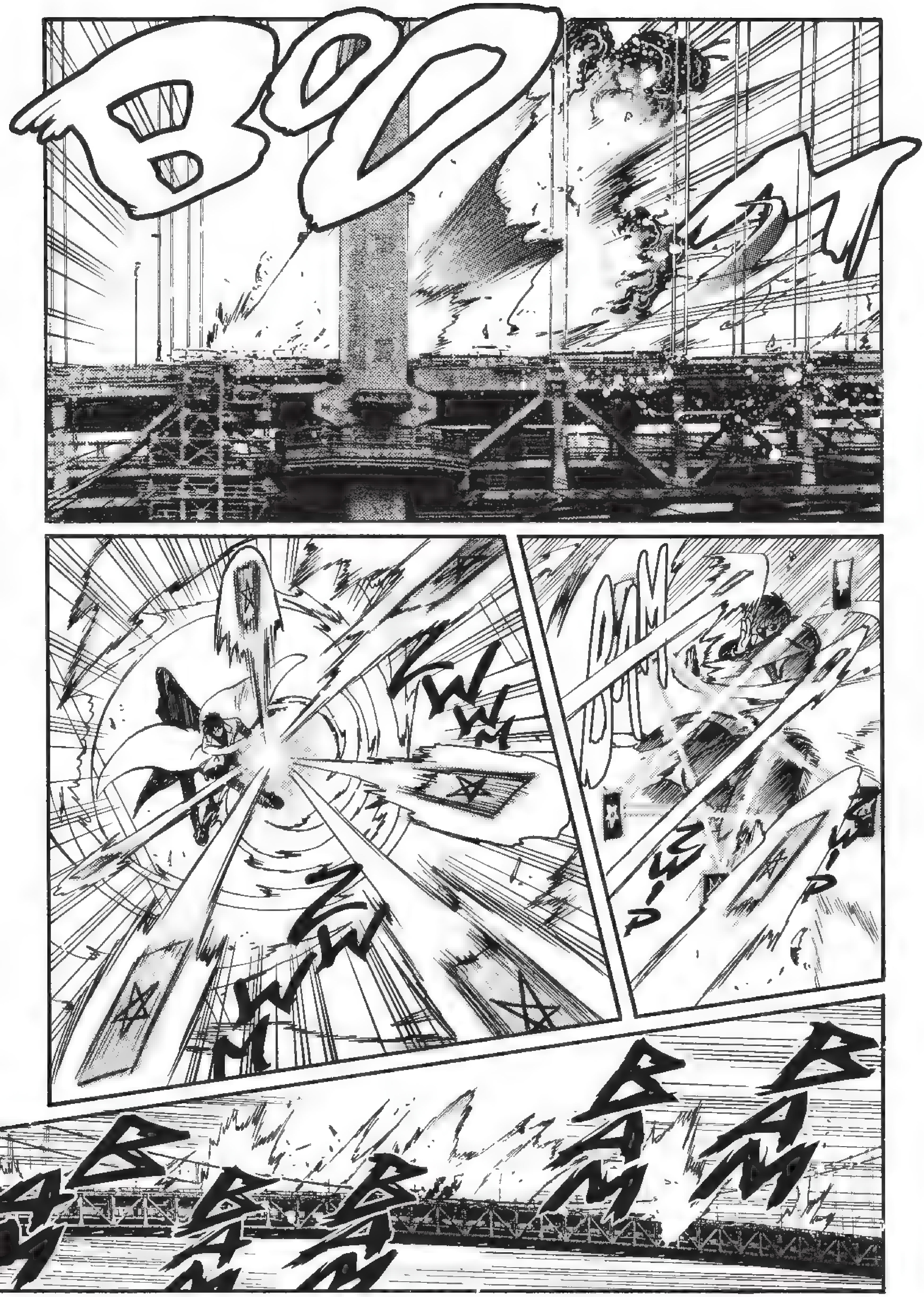

BECAUSE YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CHANGED ME.
YOU MADE ME...
NEVER MIND. IT DOESN'T MATTER TO YOU ANYWAY.

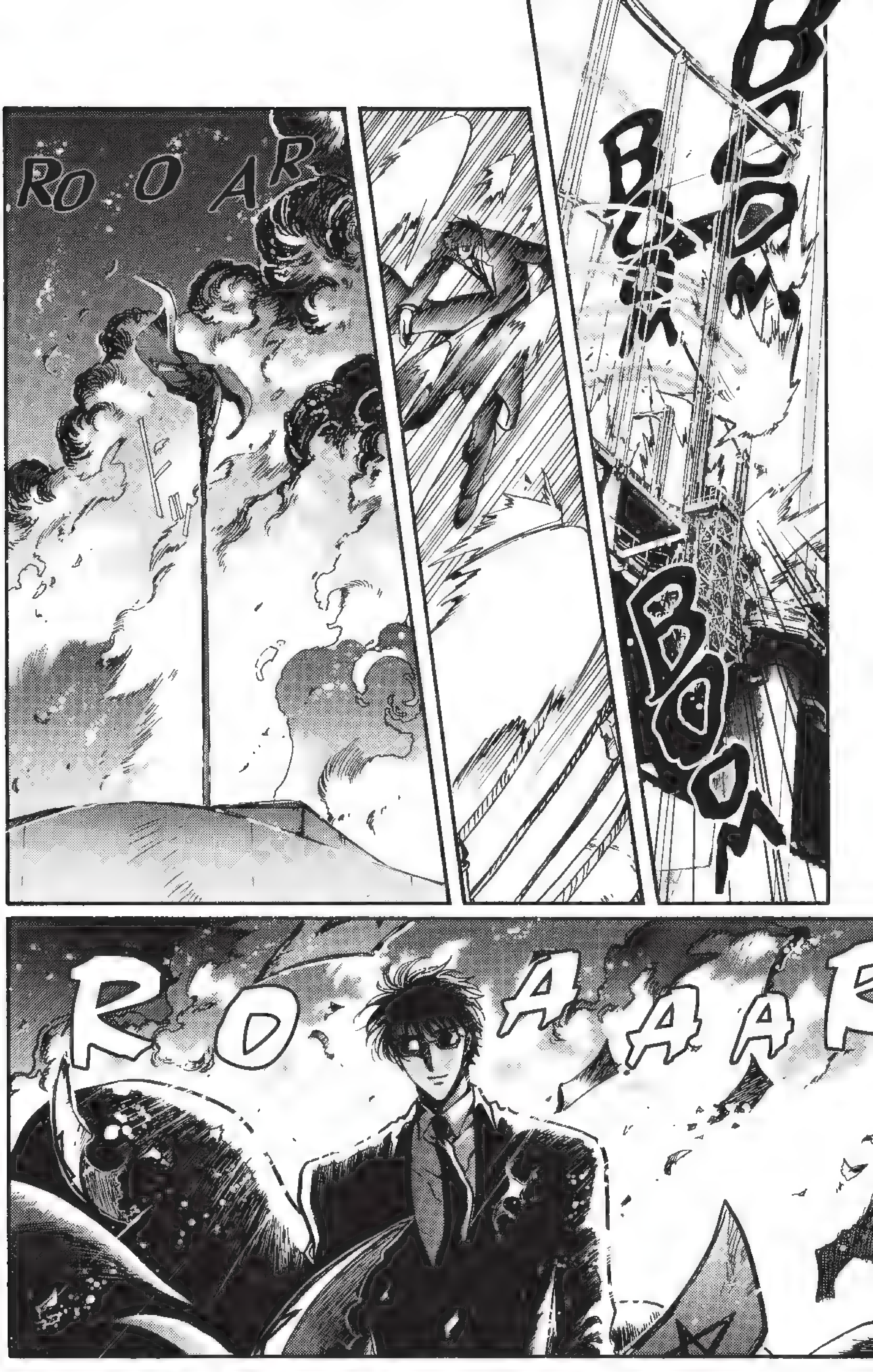

SWP

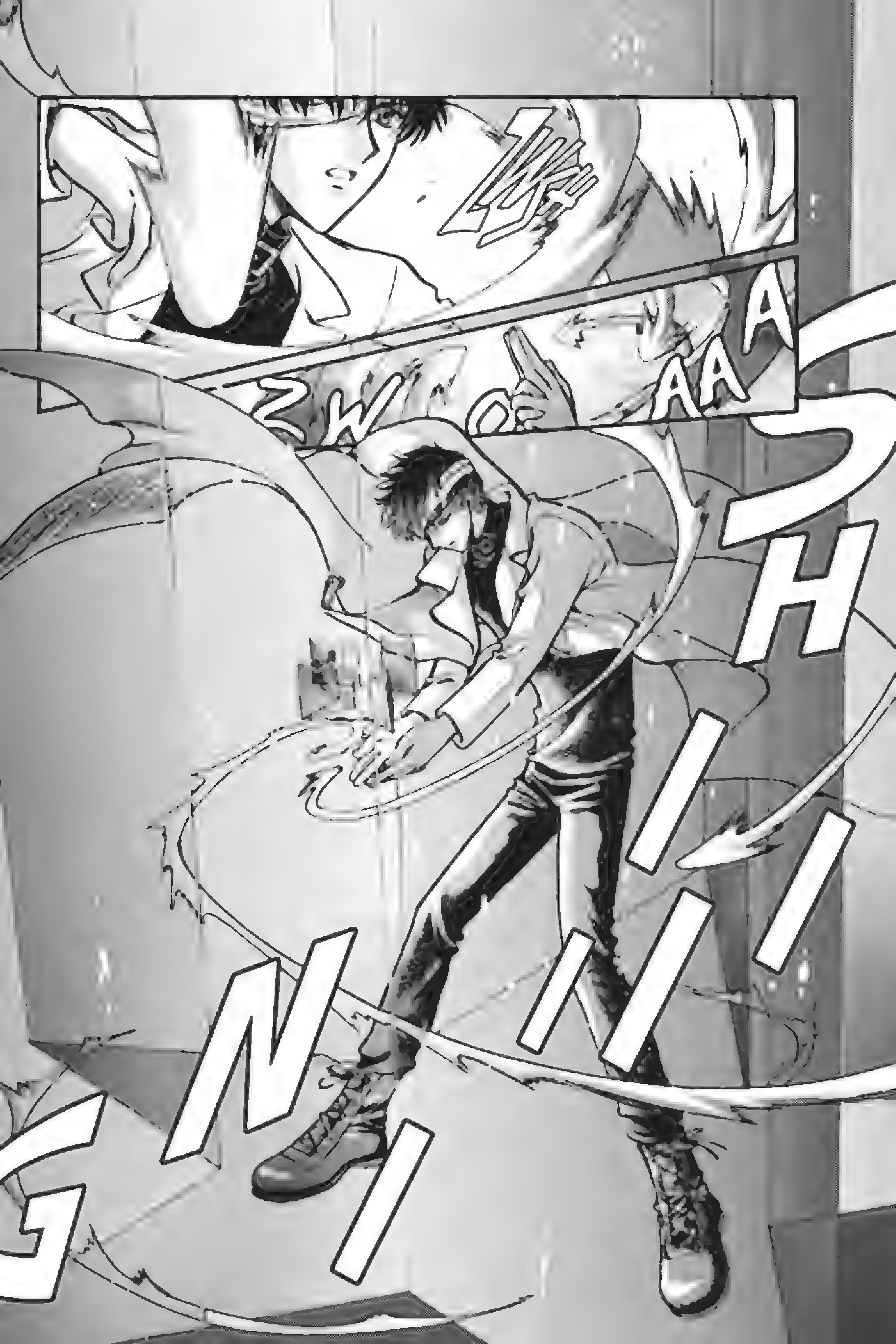

YOU JUST KILLED SOMEONE HERE, DIDN'T YOU.
RMB
RMBL
RMBL


FUU
I AM THE SAKURAZUKAMORI, AFTER ALL.

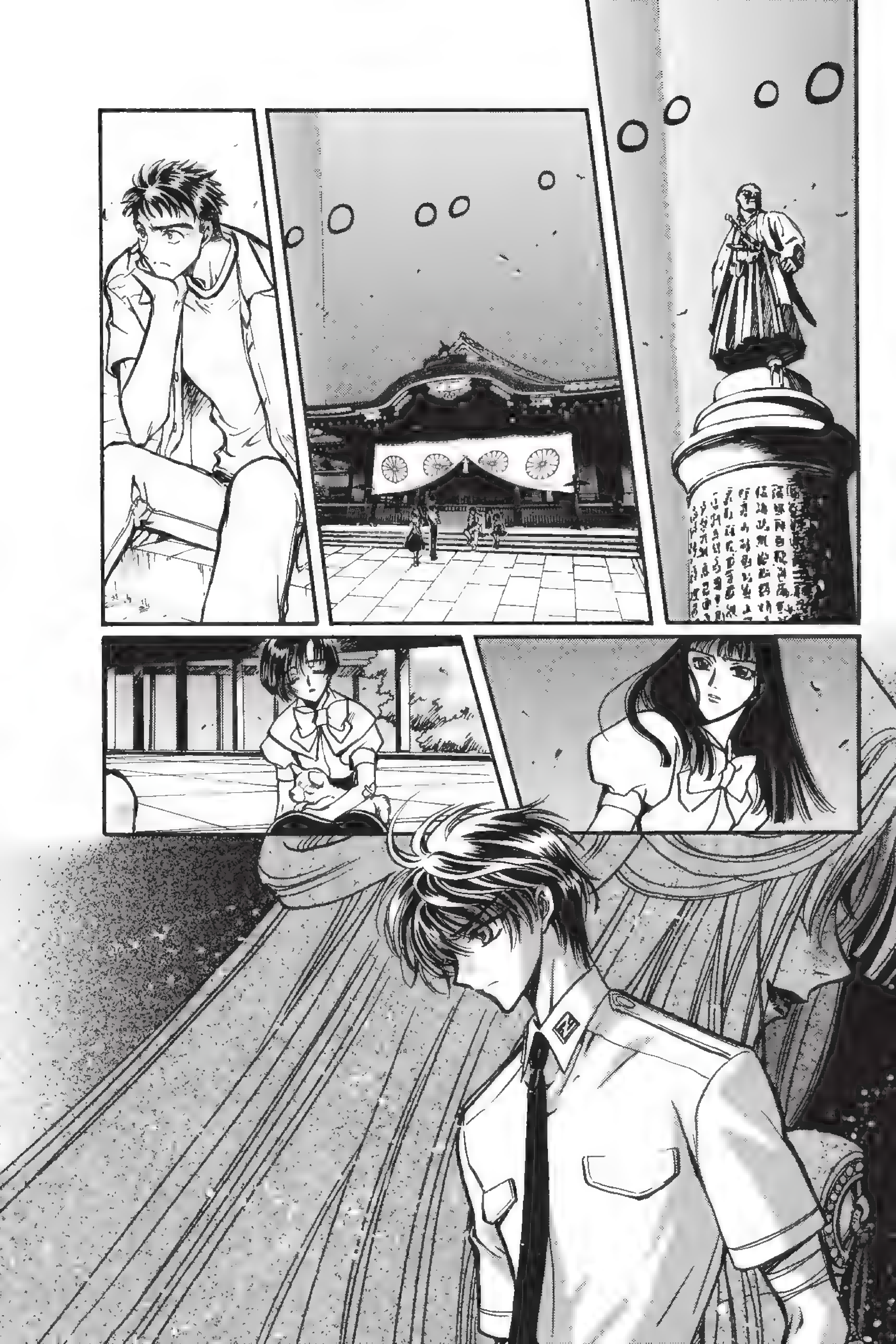

RRRRMBL
KRAK
FWD
RRRAMB
SH

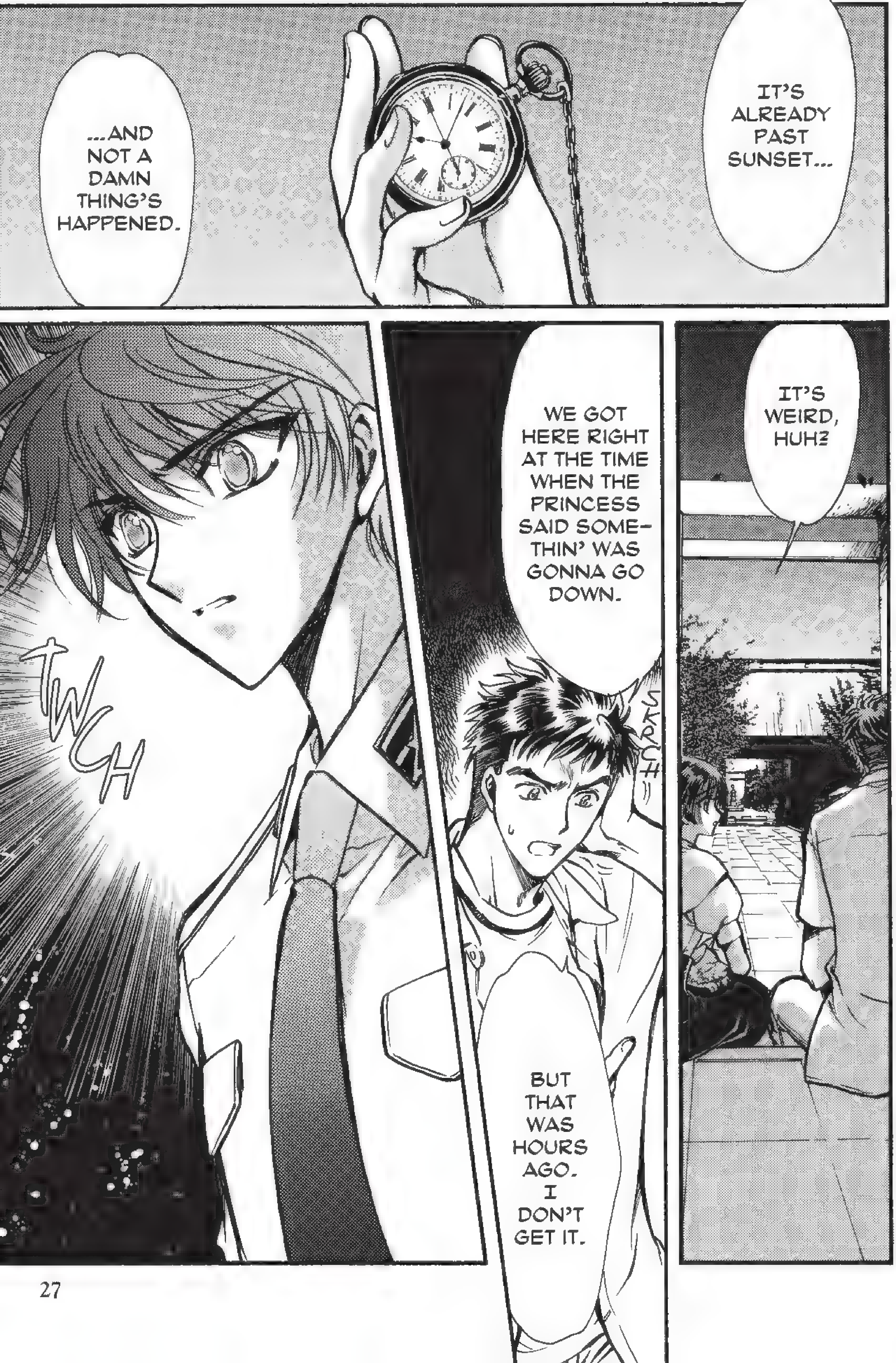

BOOM
BOOM
WHIP
WHIP
ZWWM
ZWWM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM

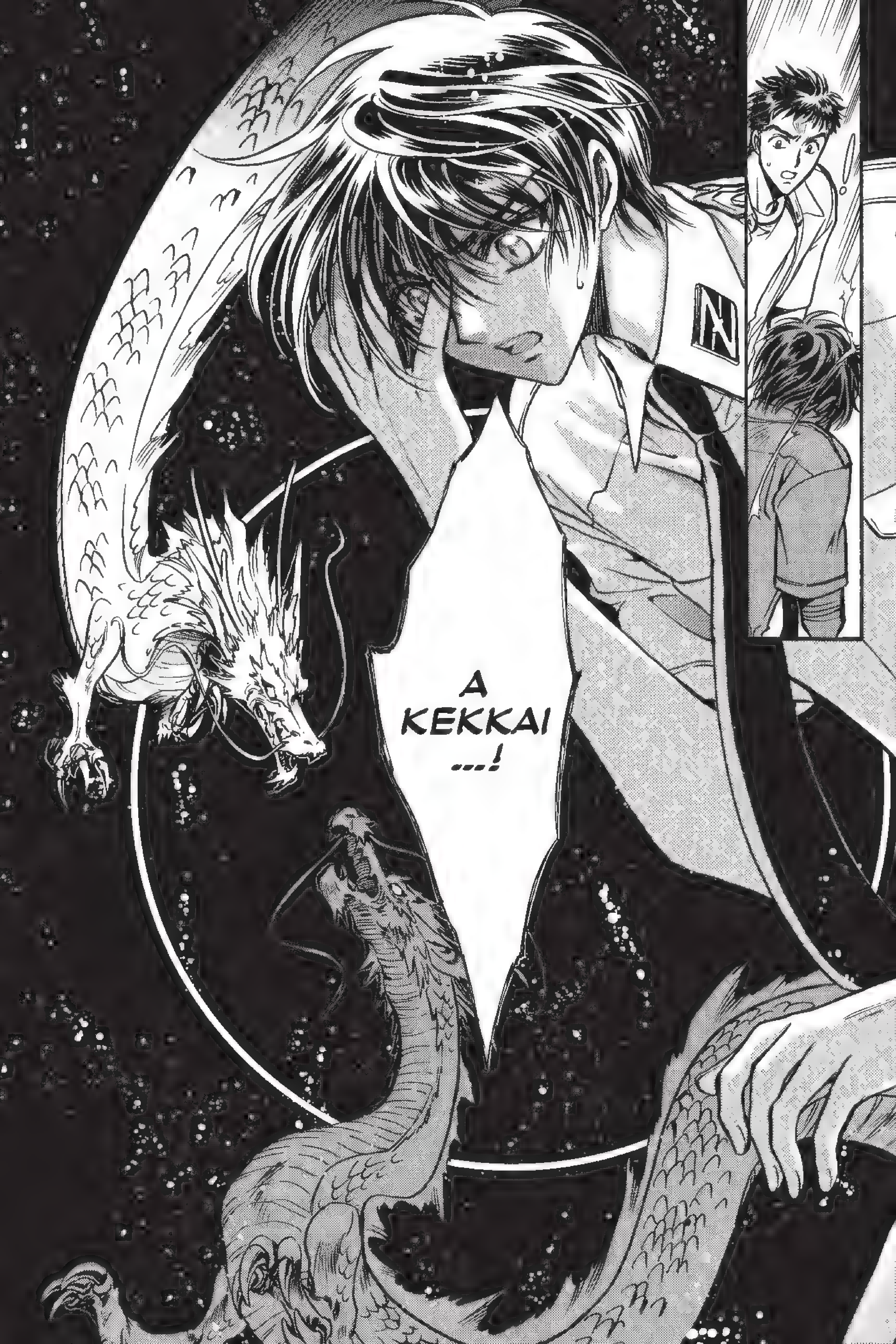

BOOM
BOOM
ROOAR
ROAAAR

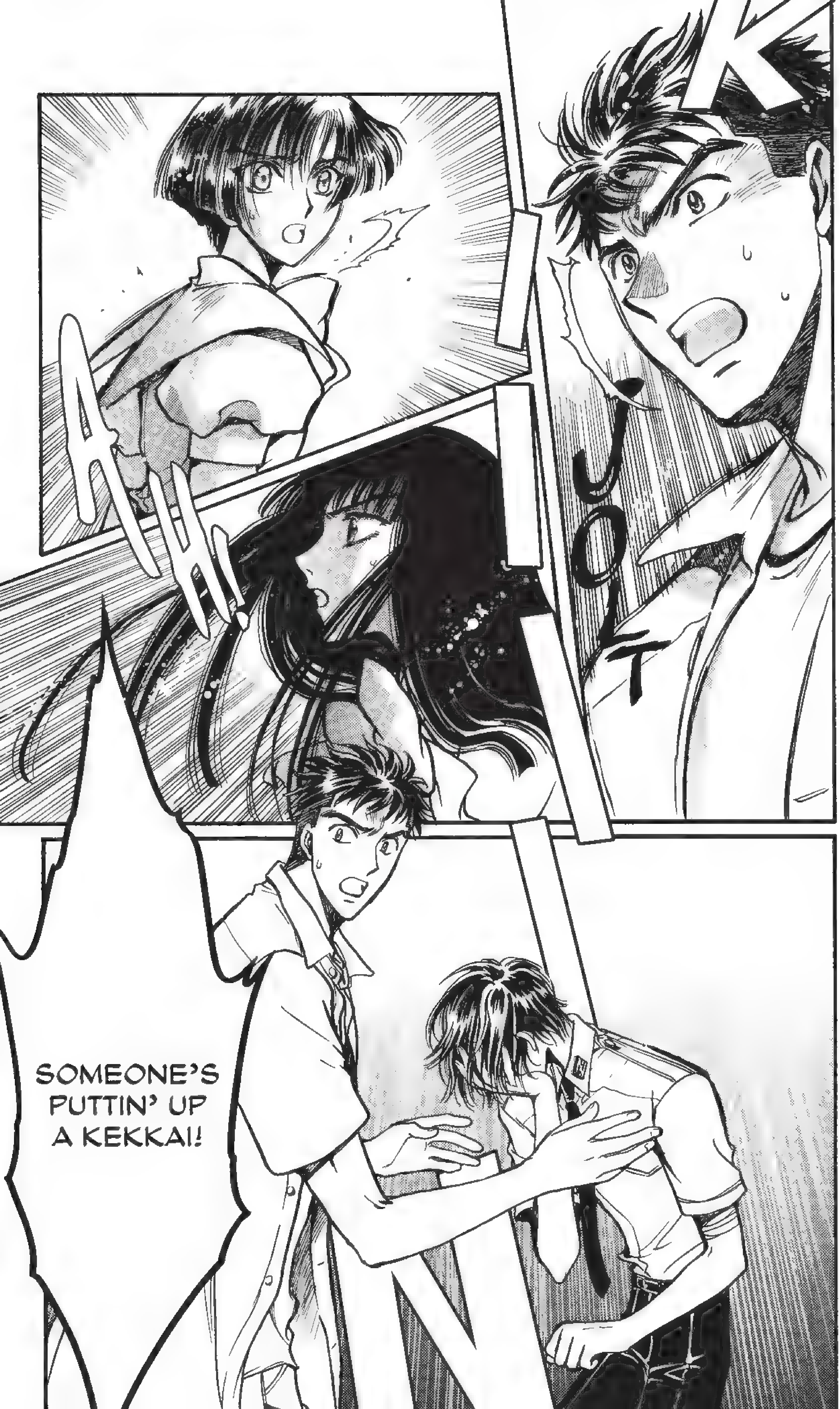

ZWOAAAA
SHIIIIING

KIIIIIN

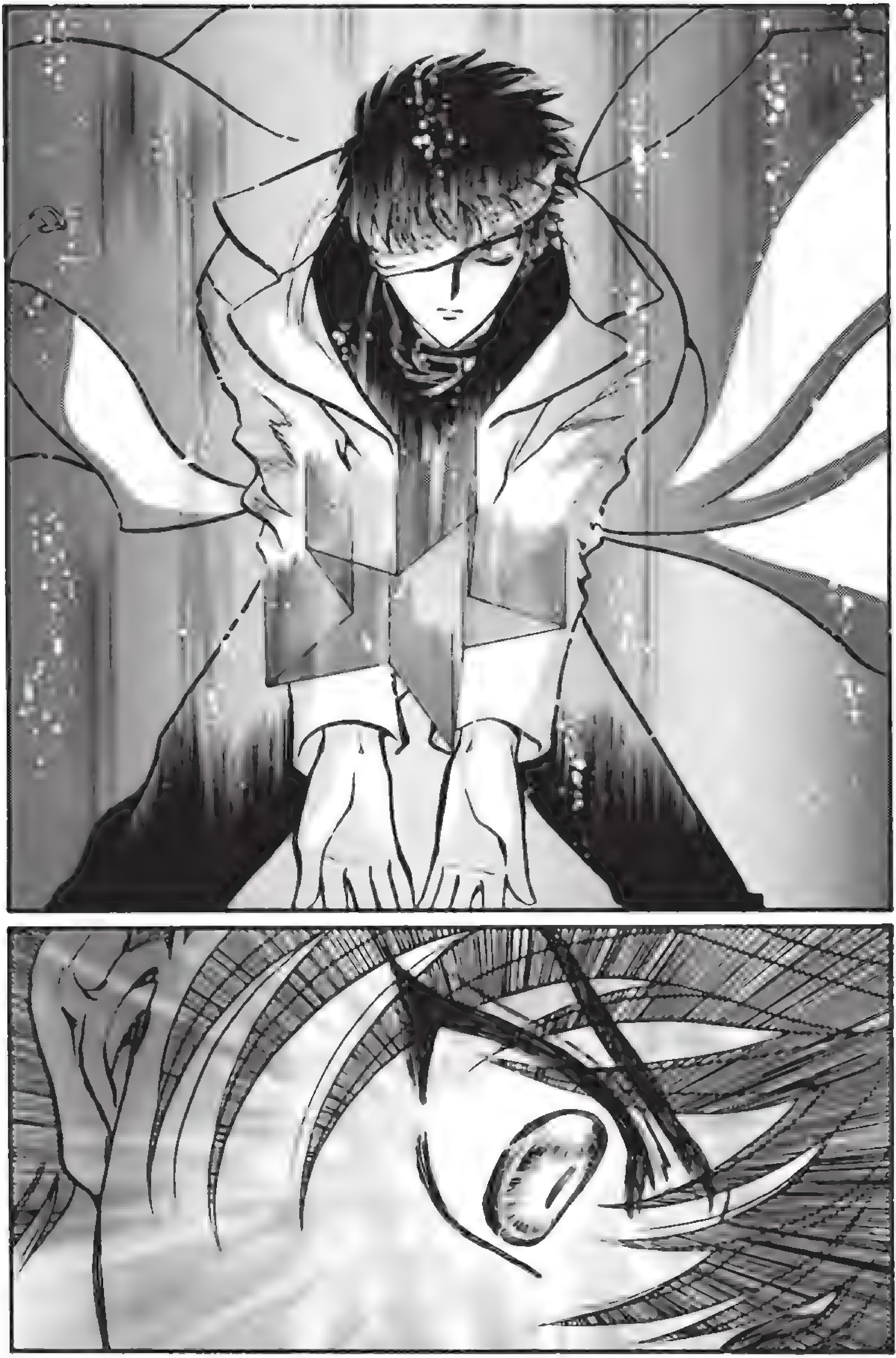


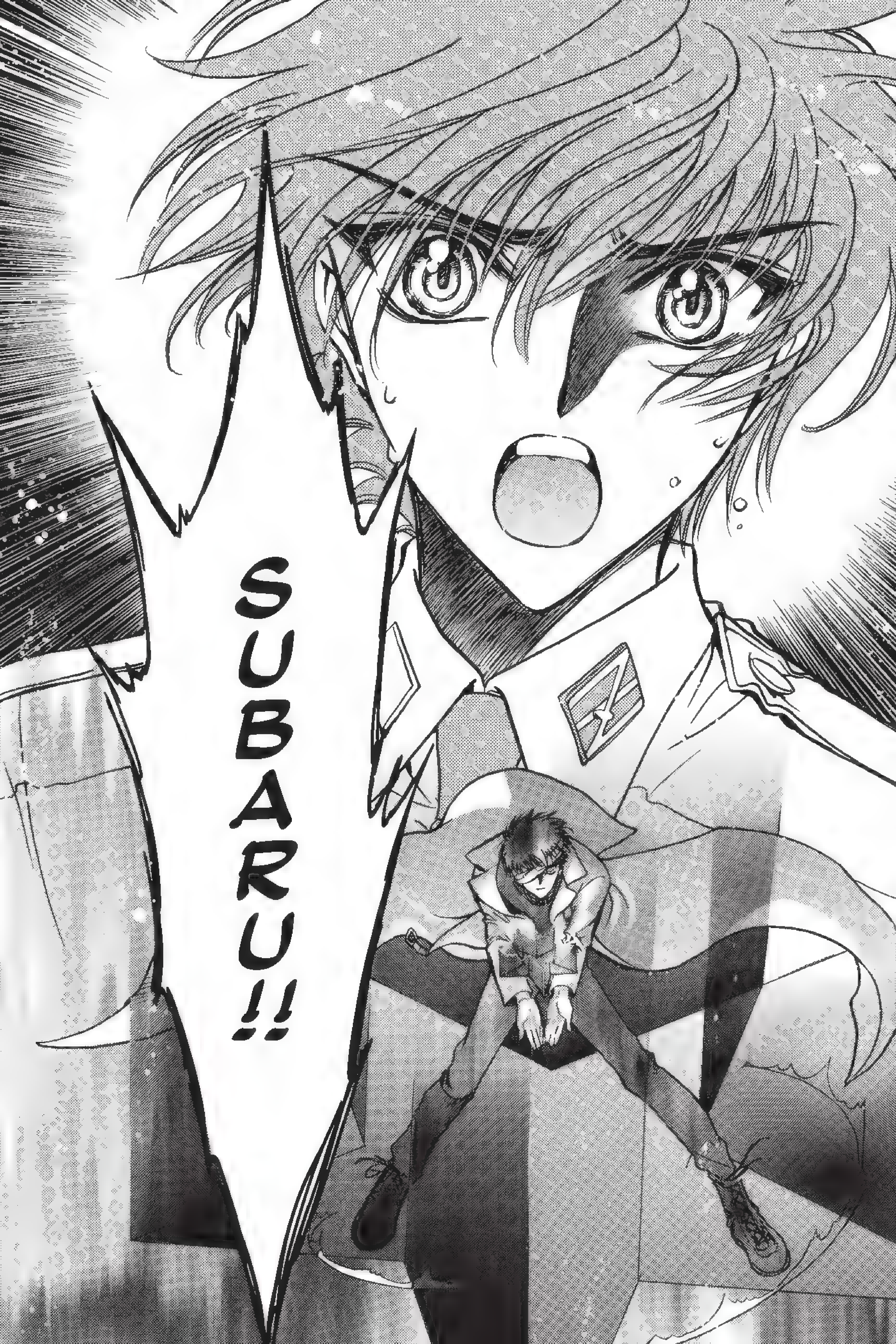

IT'S ALREADY PAST SUNSET...
...AND NOT A DAMN THING'S HAPPENED.
IT'S WEIRD, HUH?
WE GOT HERE RIGHT AT THE TIME WHEN THE PRINCESS SAID SOMETHIN' WAS GONNA GO DOWN.
SKRCH
BUT THAT WAS HOURS AGO. I DON'T GET IT.
TWCH

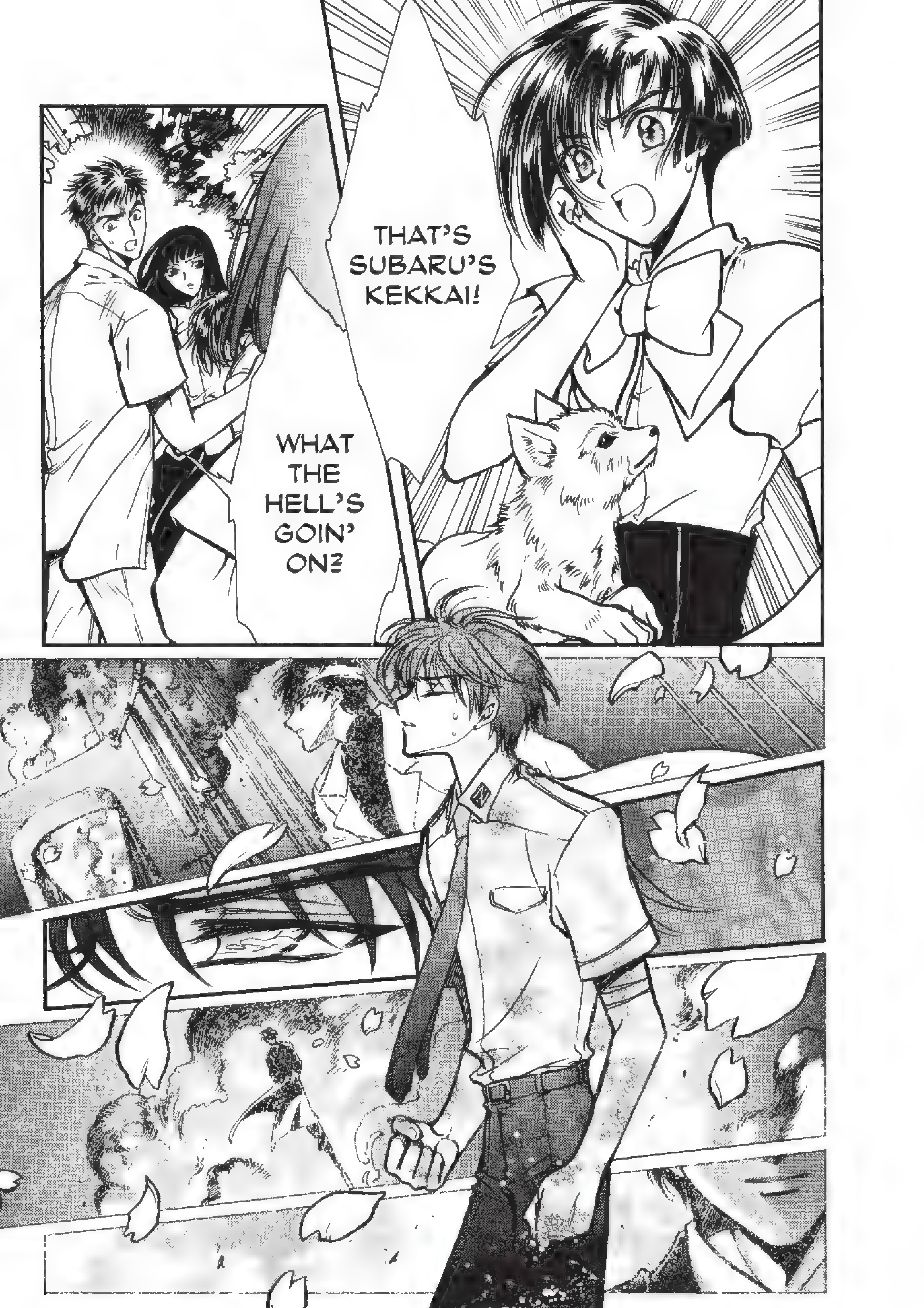

A KEKKAI ...!

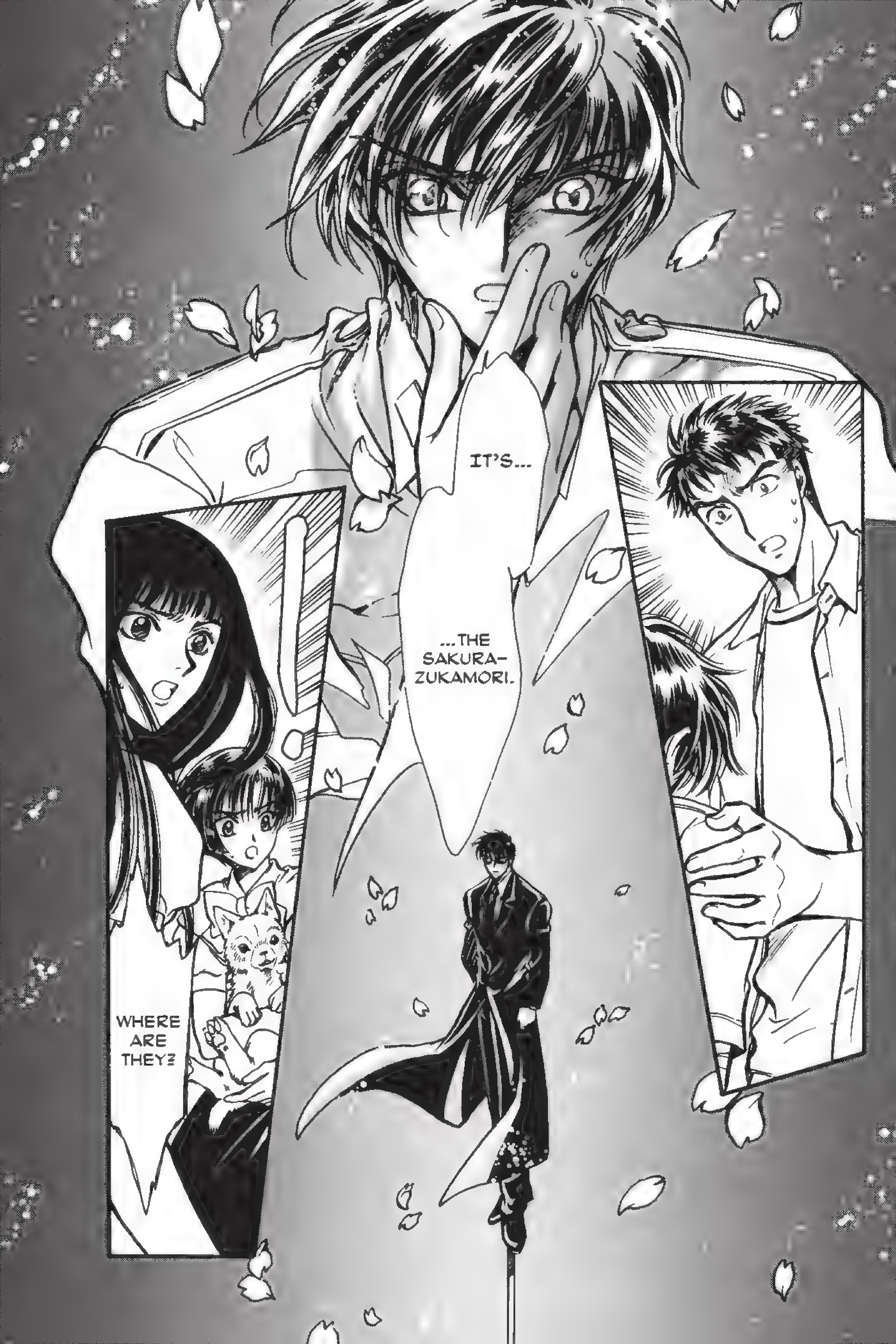

JOLT
AHH
SOMEONE'S PUTTIN' UP A KEKKAI!

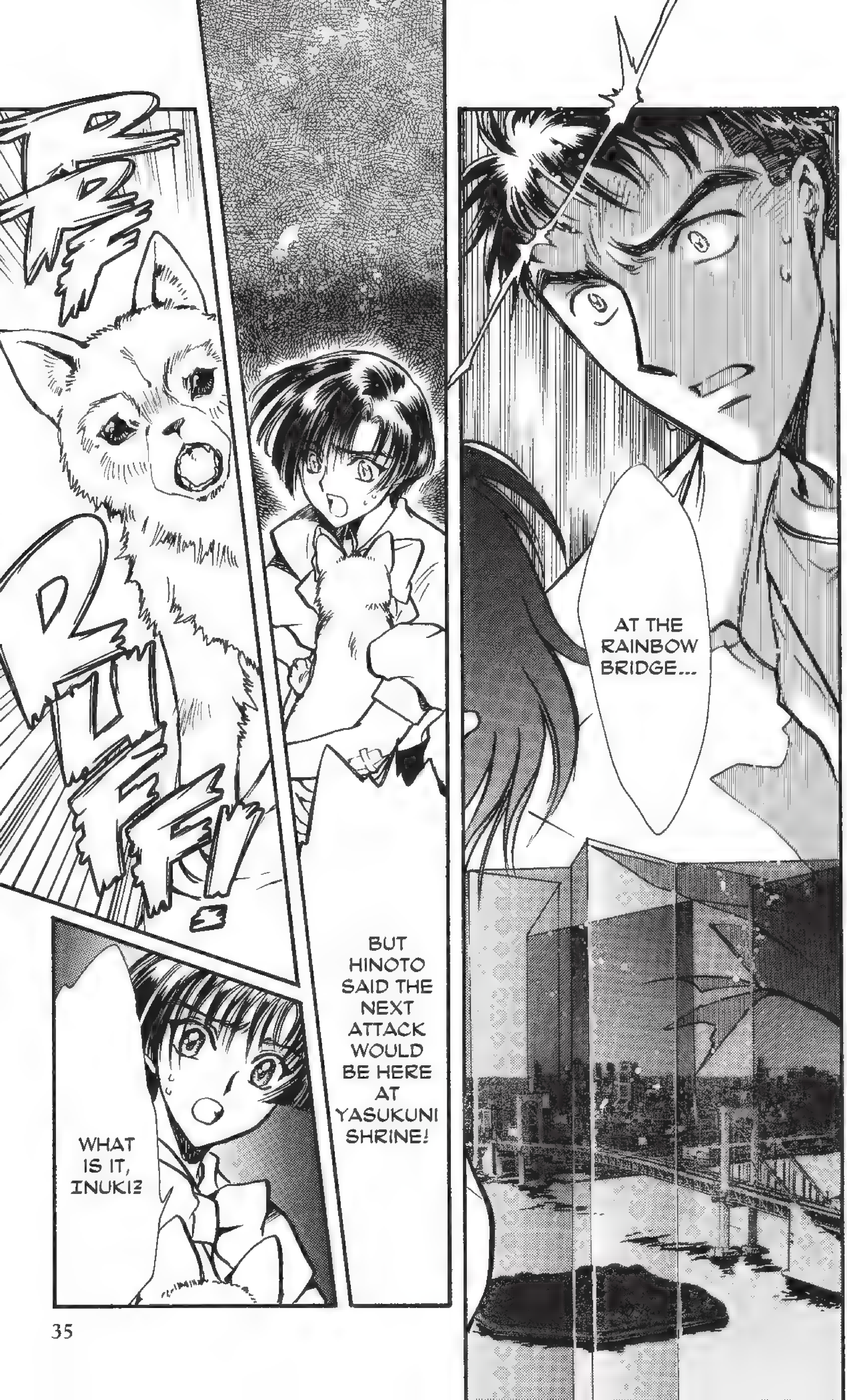
IN

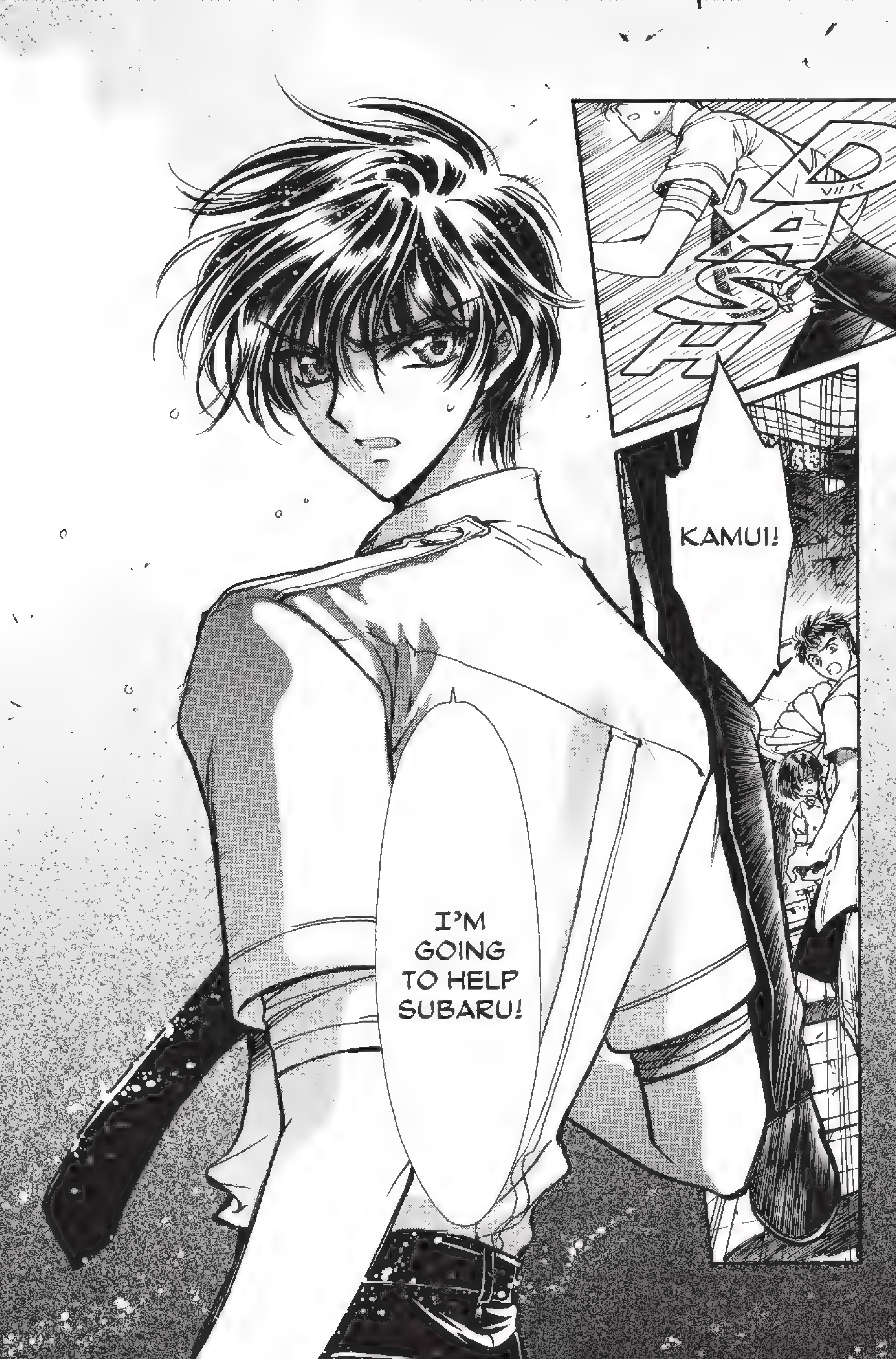


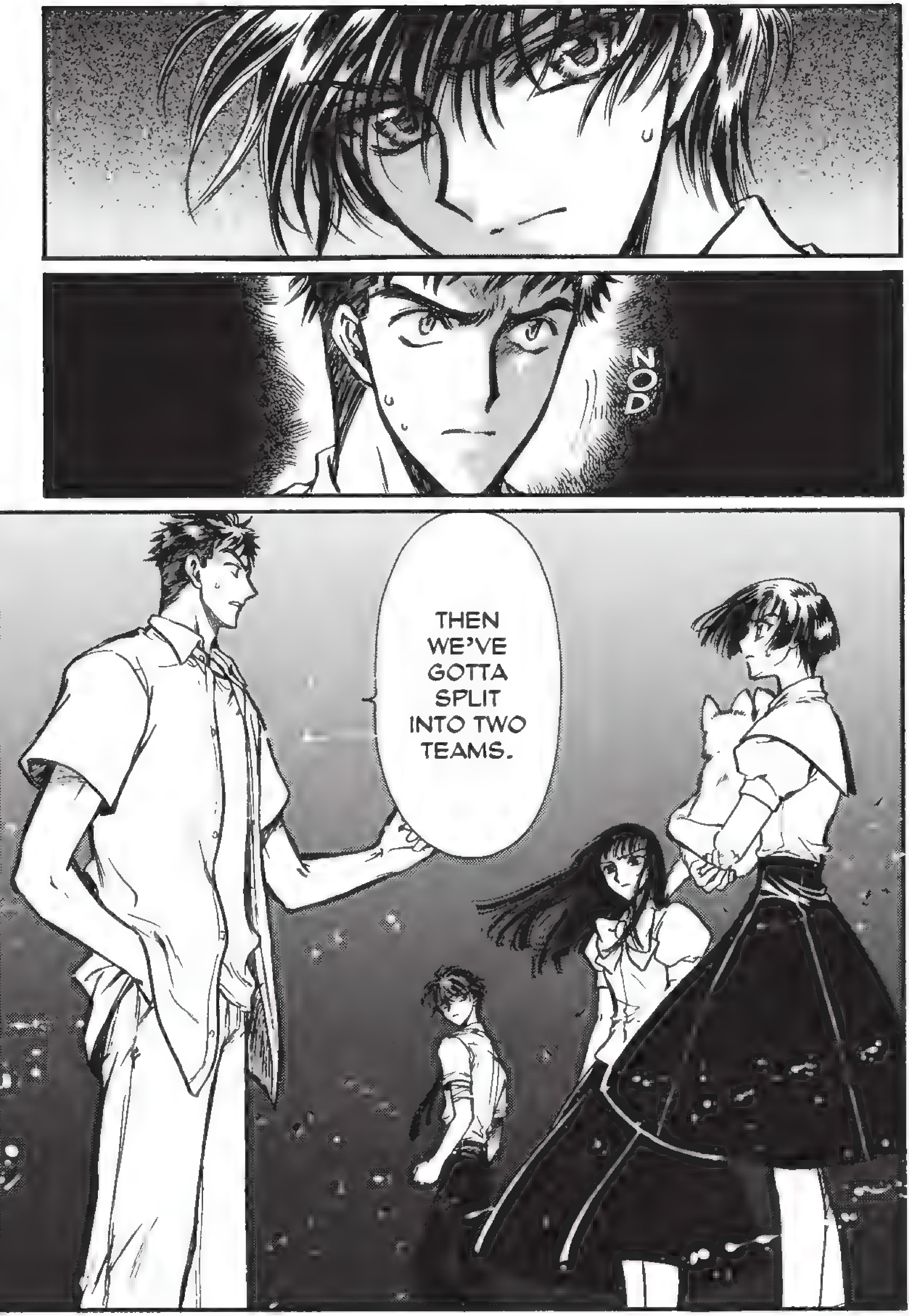

SUBARU!!

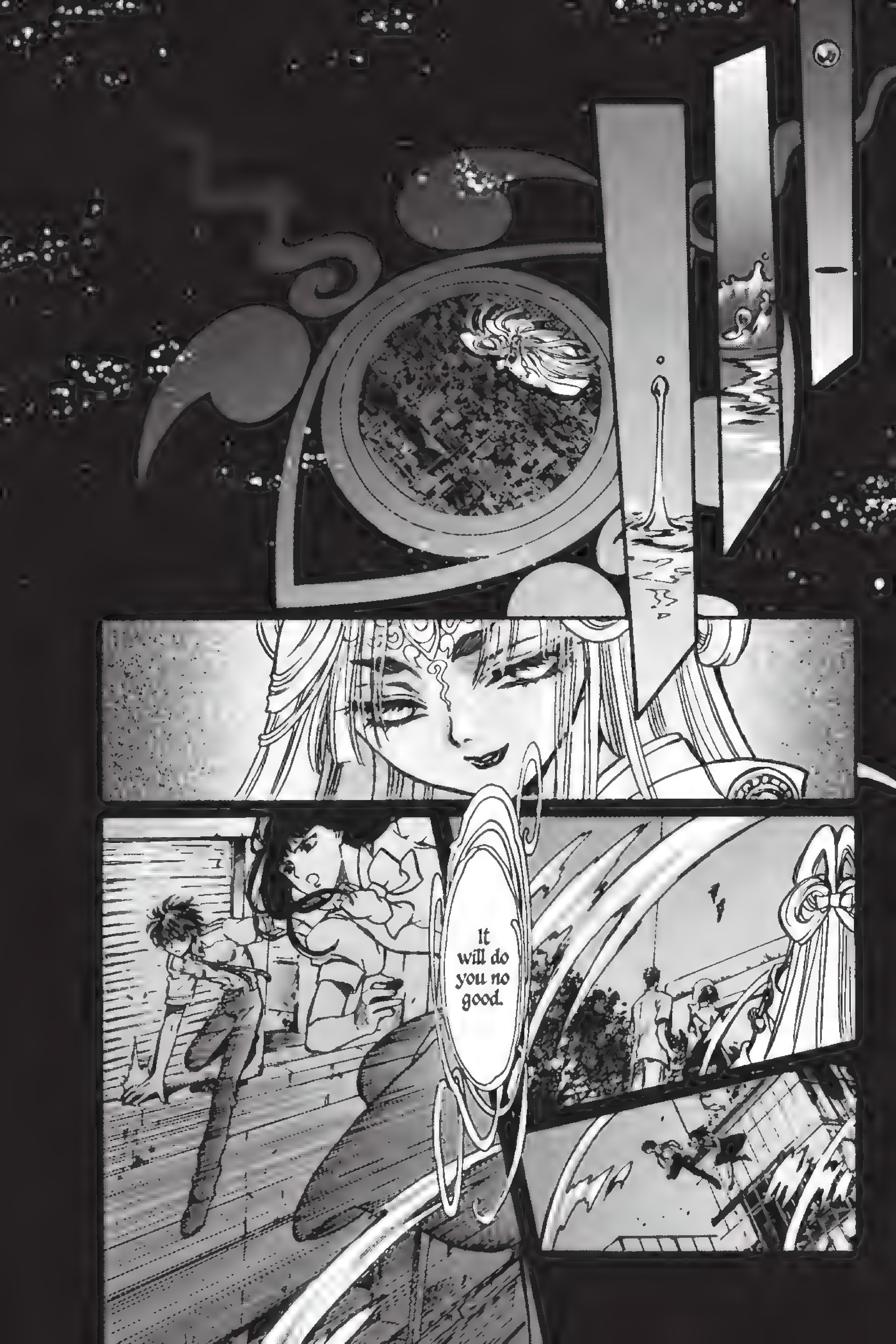

THAT'S SUBARU'S KEKKAI!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON?

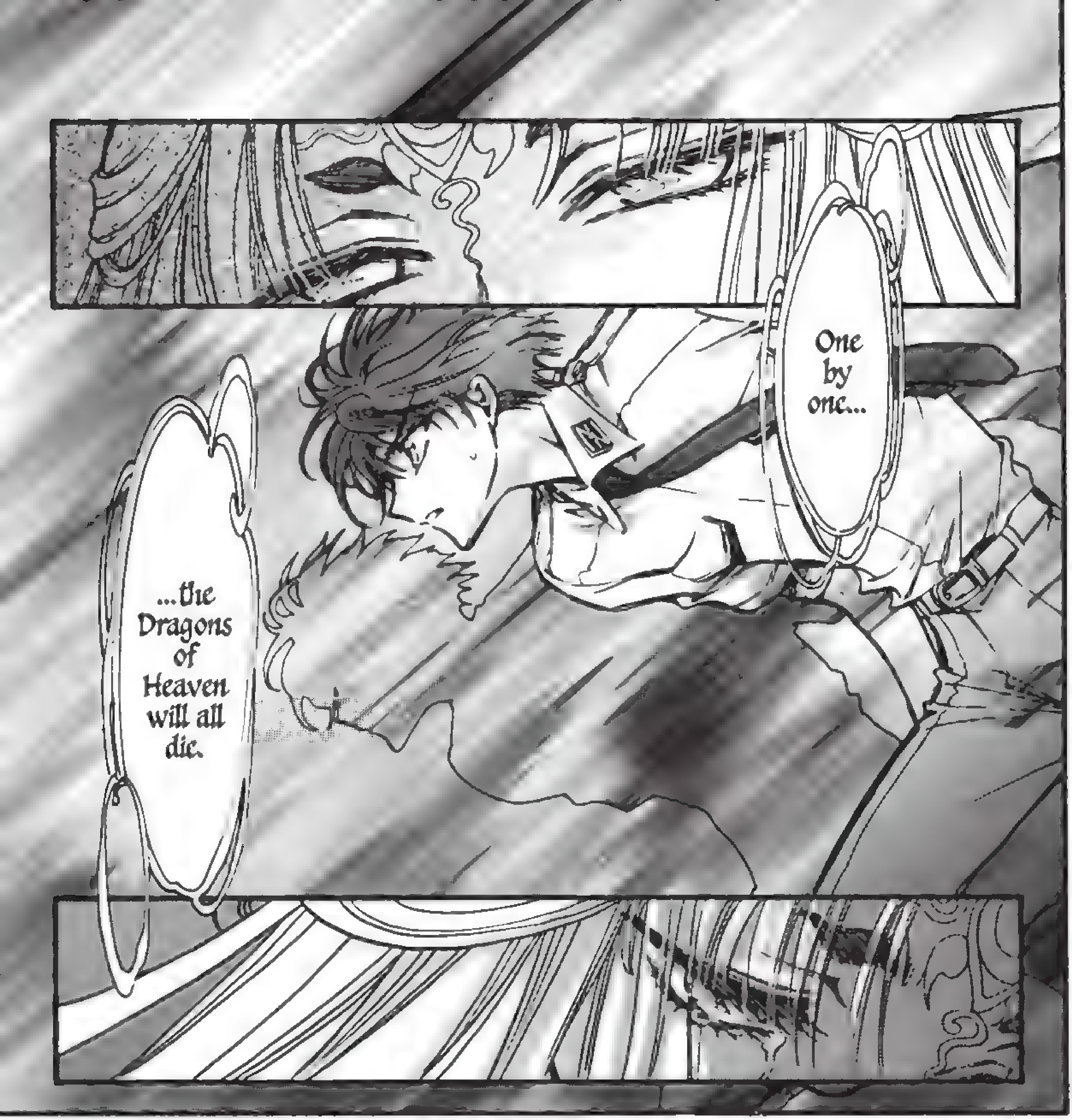

IT'S...
...THE SAKURAZUKAMORI.
WHERE ARE THEY?!

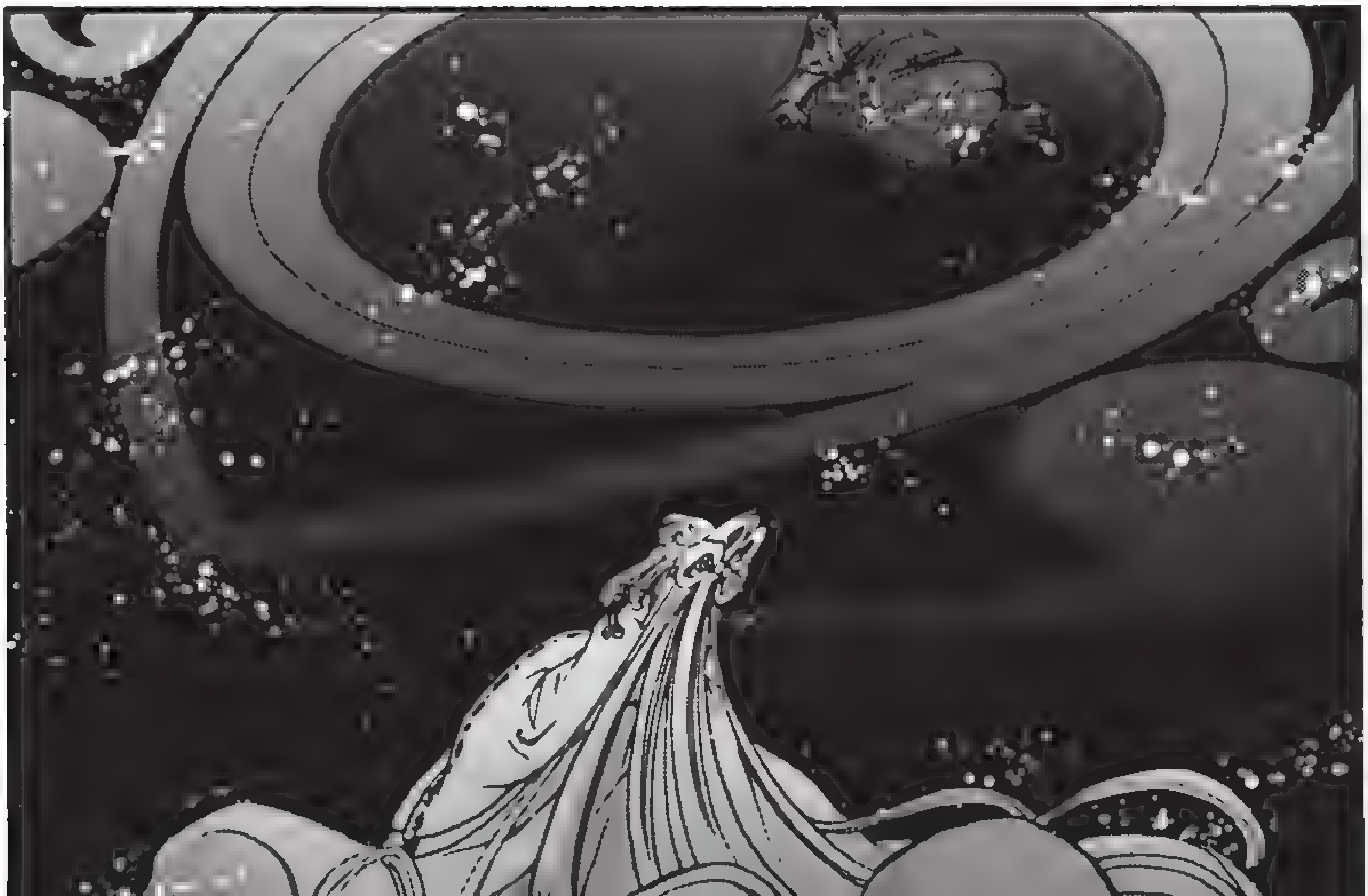

AT THE RAINBOW BRIDGE...
BUT HINOTO SAID THE NEXT ATTACK WOULD BE HERE AT YASUKUNI SHRINE!
WHAT IS IT, INUKI?

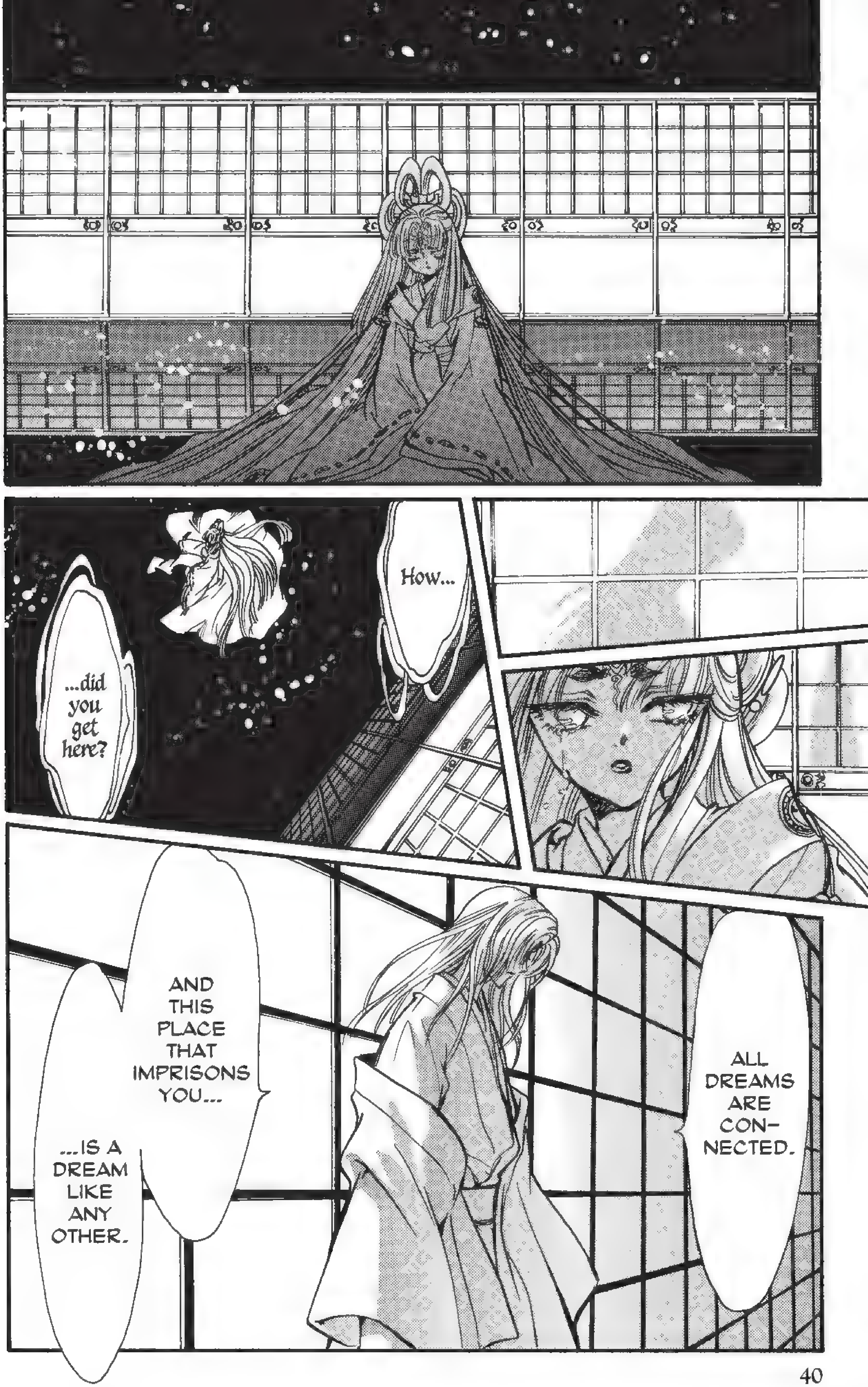

DASH
KAMUI!
I'M GOING TO HELP SUBARU!

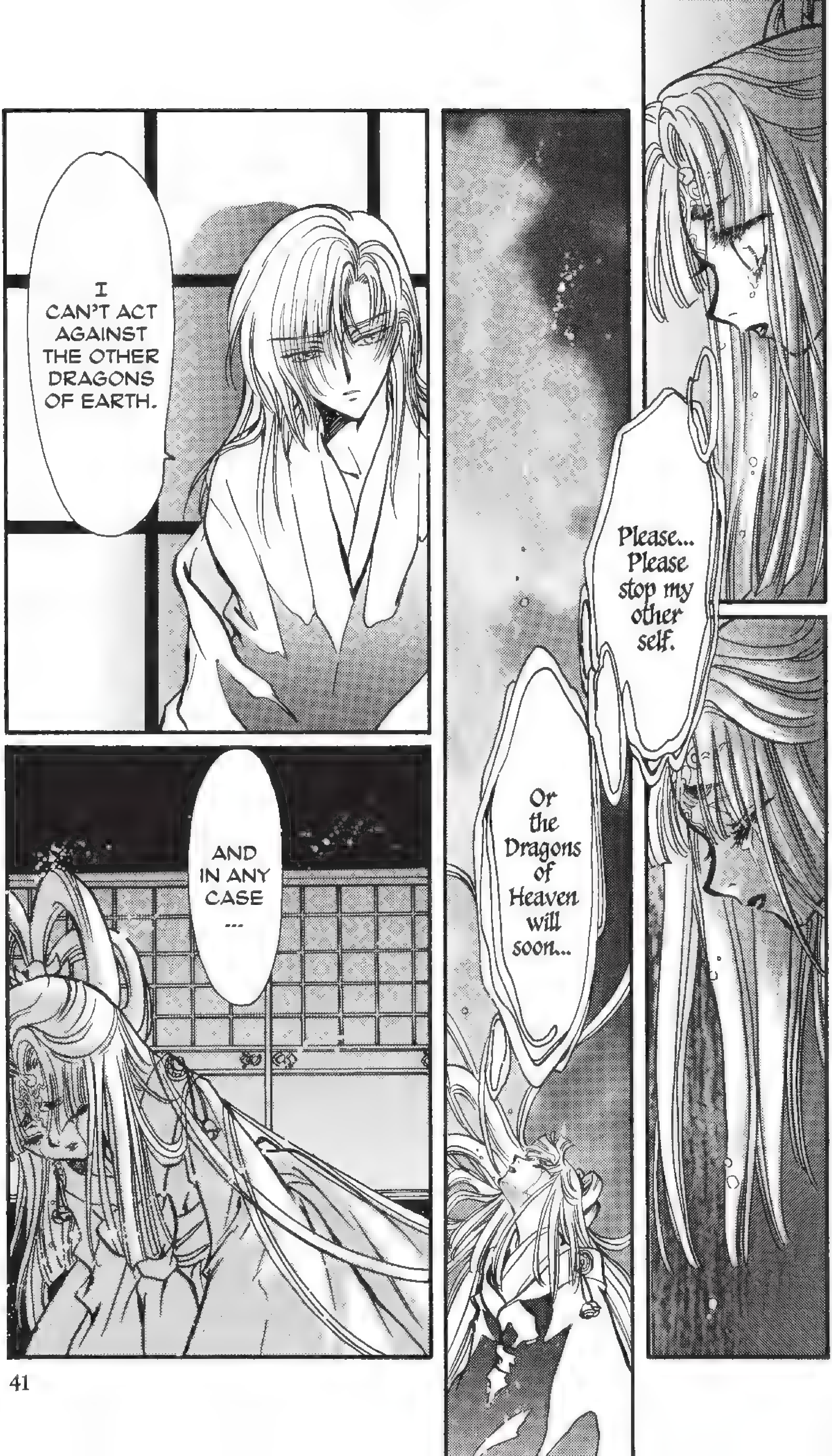

NOD
THEN WE'VE GOTTA SPLIT INTO TWO TEAMS.

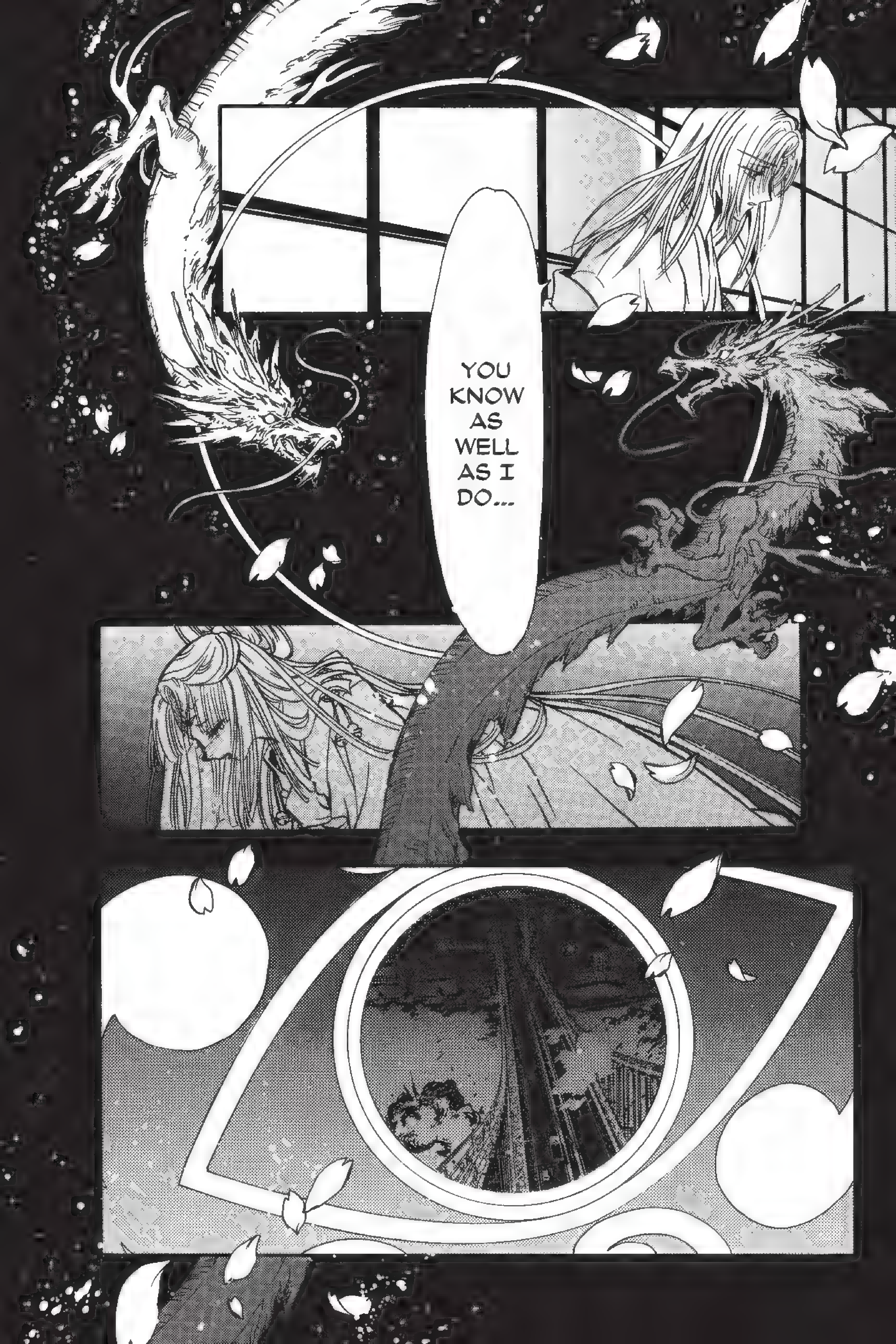

It will do you no good.

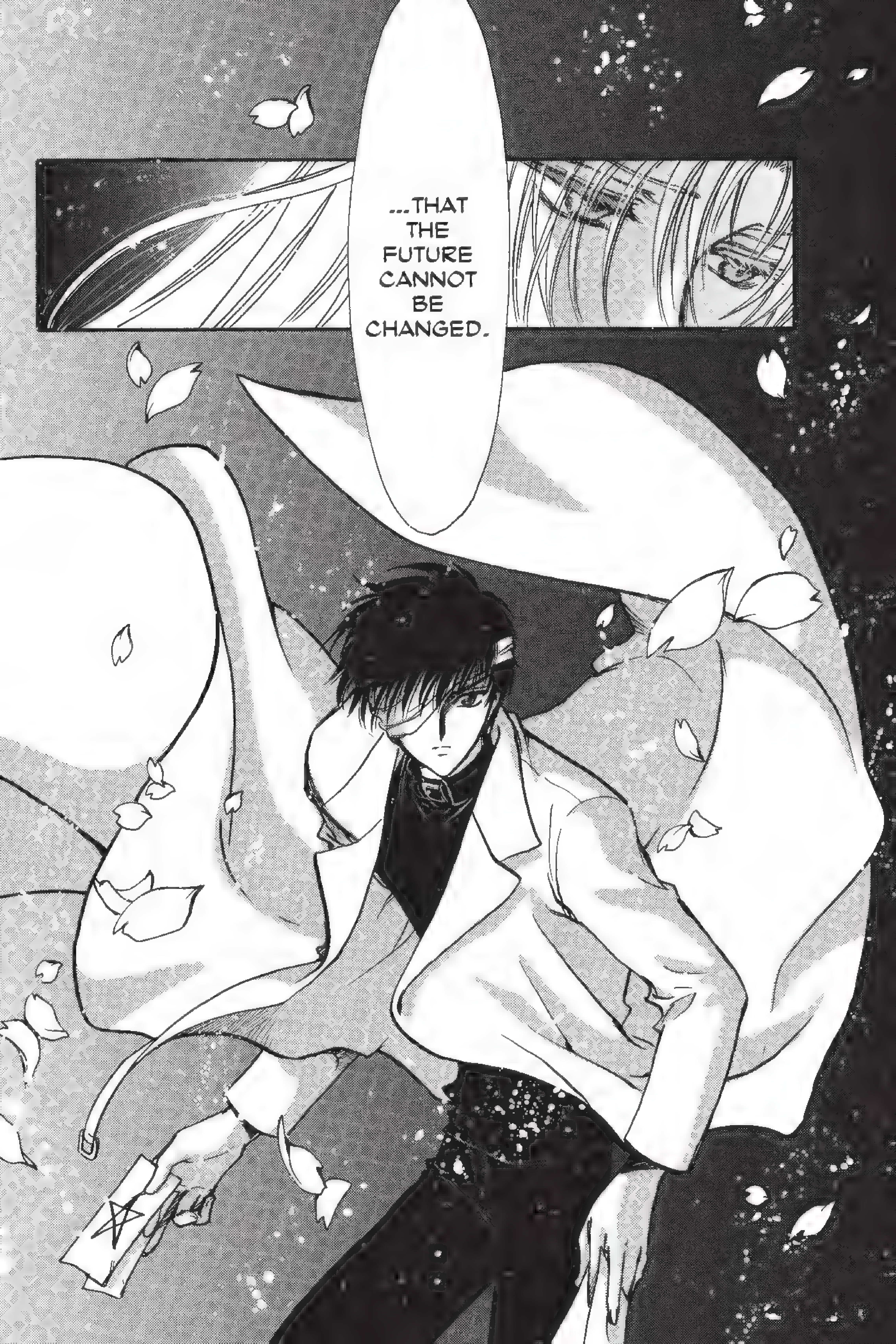

One by one...
...the Dragons of Heaven will all die.

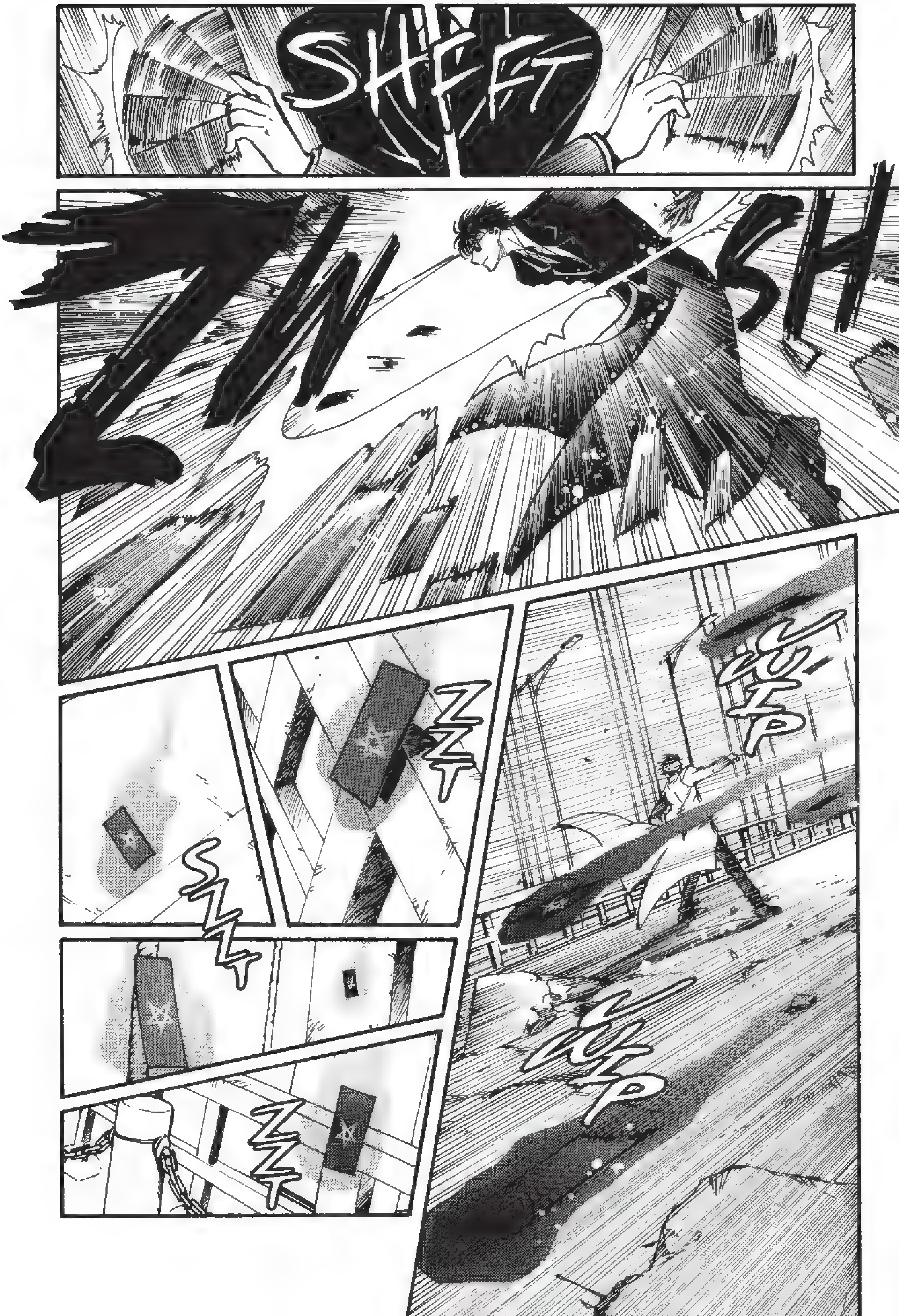


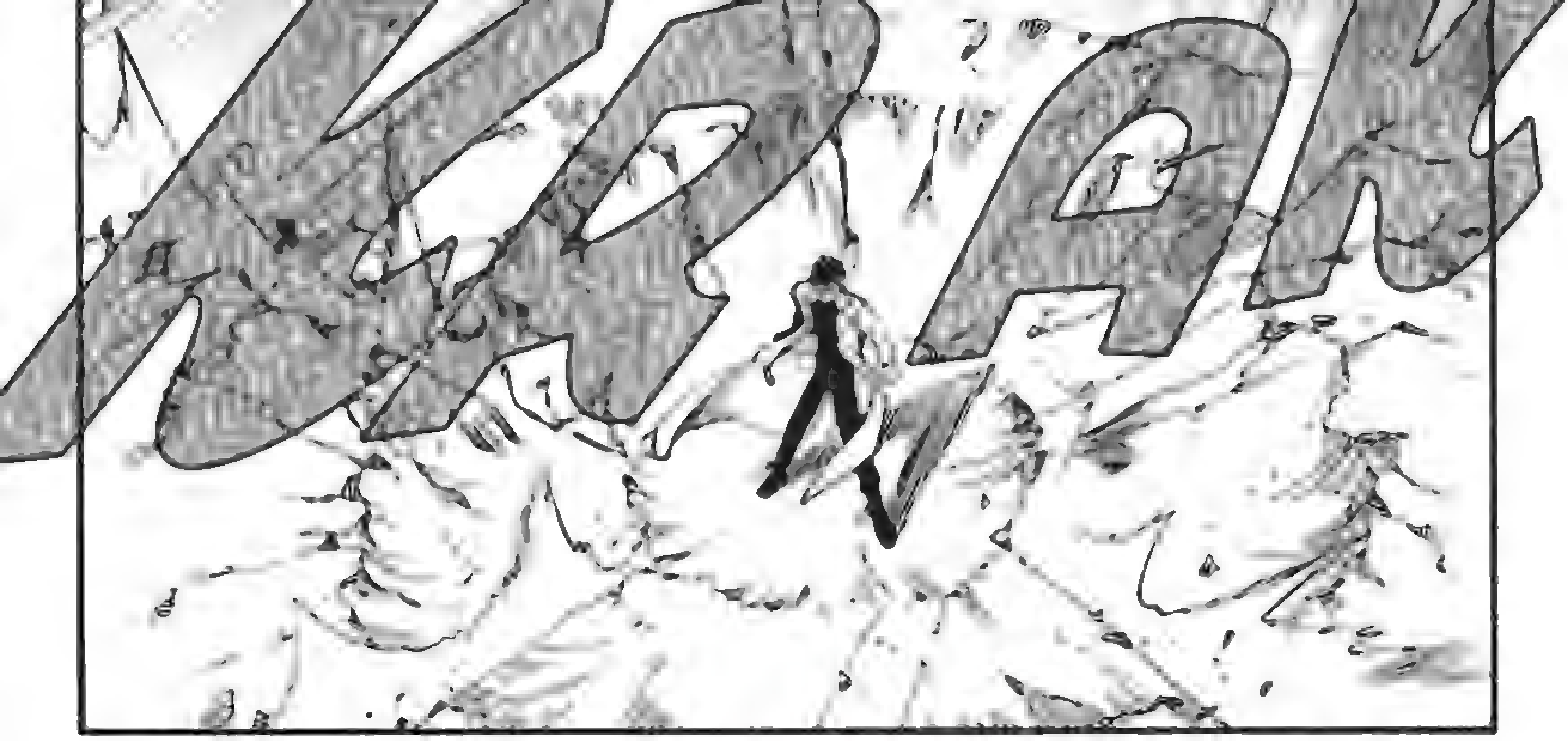

How...
...did you get here?
ALL DREAMS ARE CON-NECTED.
AND THIS PLACE THAT IMPRISONS YOU...
...IS A DREAM LIKE ANY OTHER.

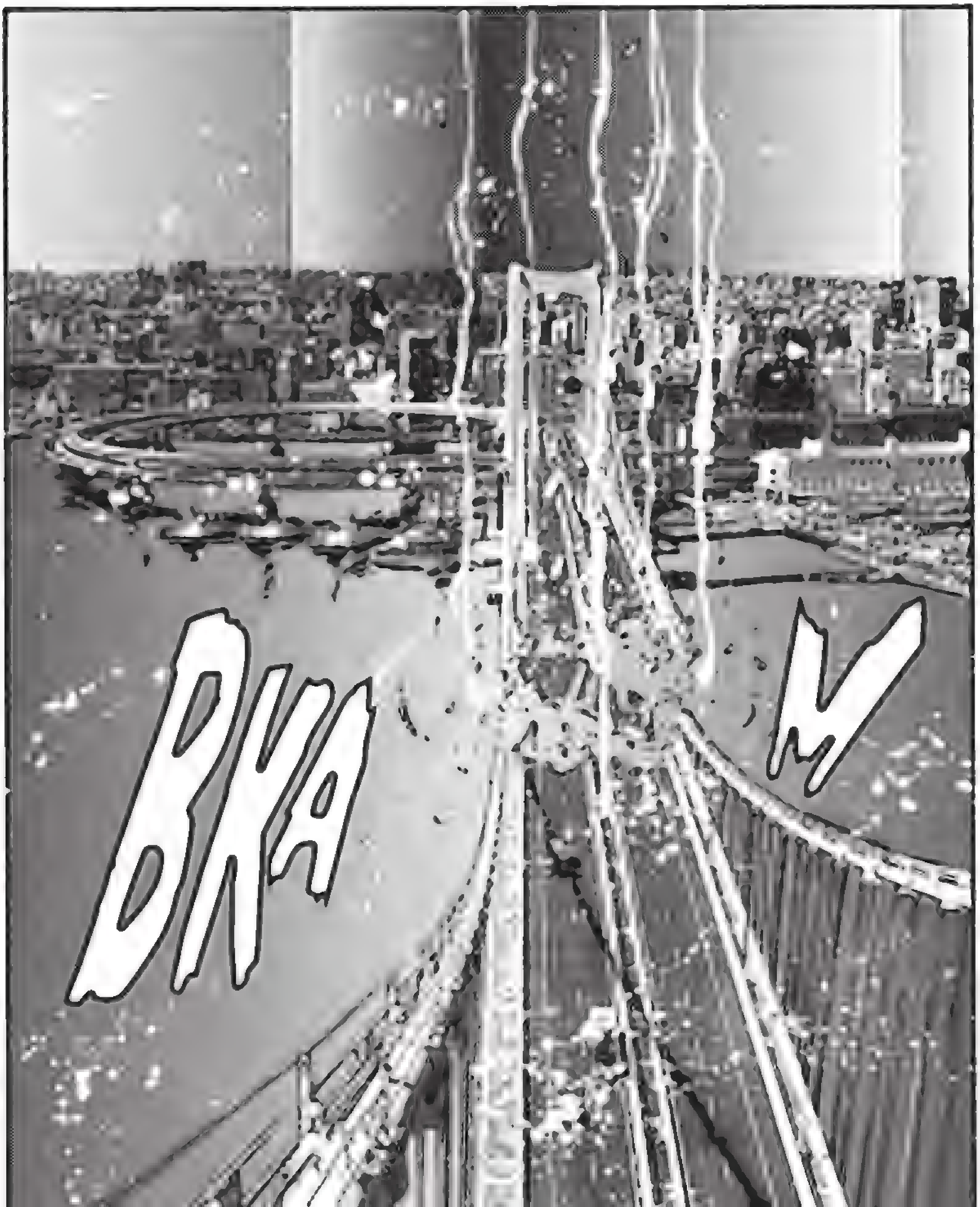

Please... Please stop my other self.
Or the Dragons of Heaven will soon...
I CAN'T ACT AGAINST THE OTHER DRAGONS OF EARTH.
AND IN ANY CASE ---

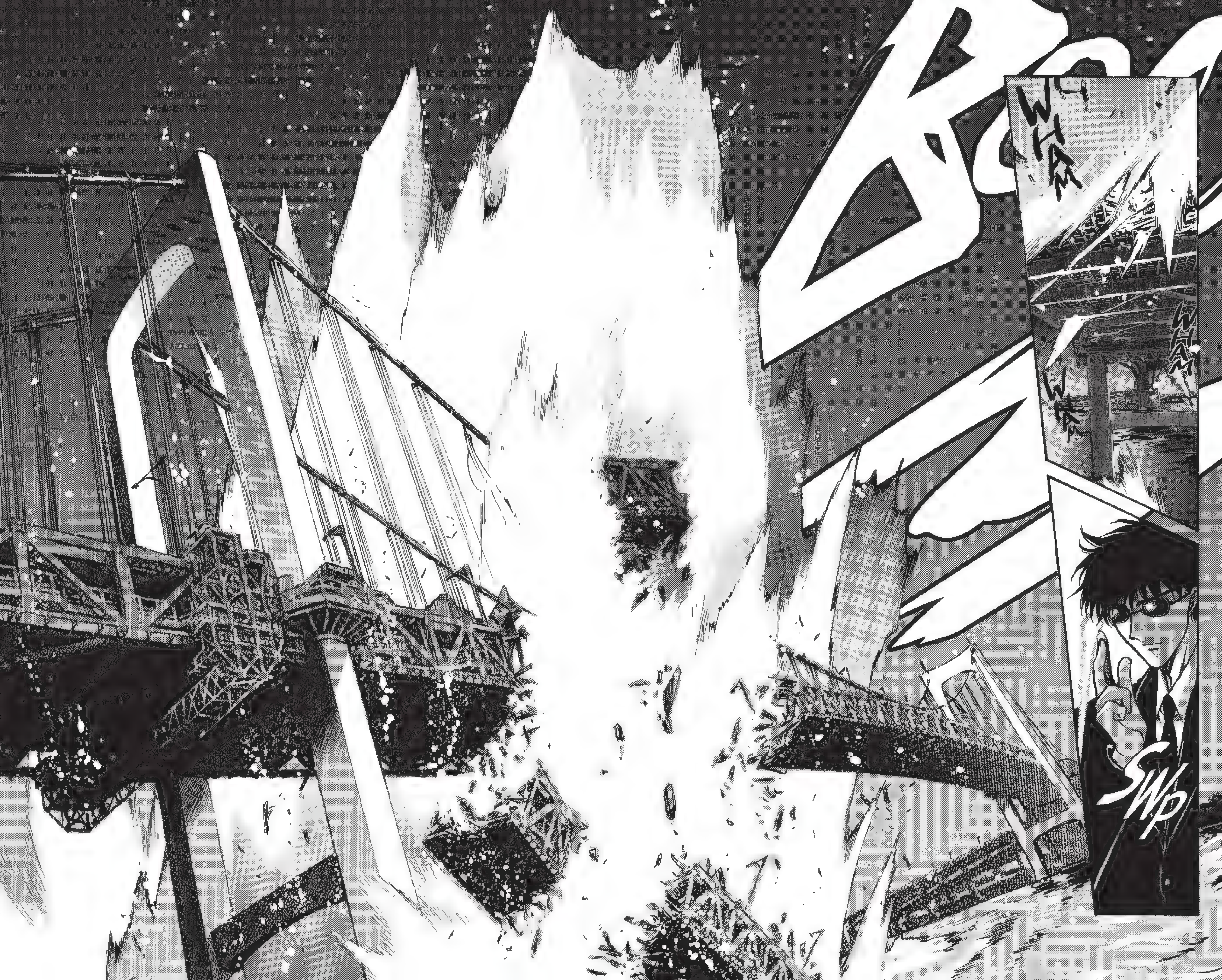

YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO...

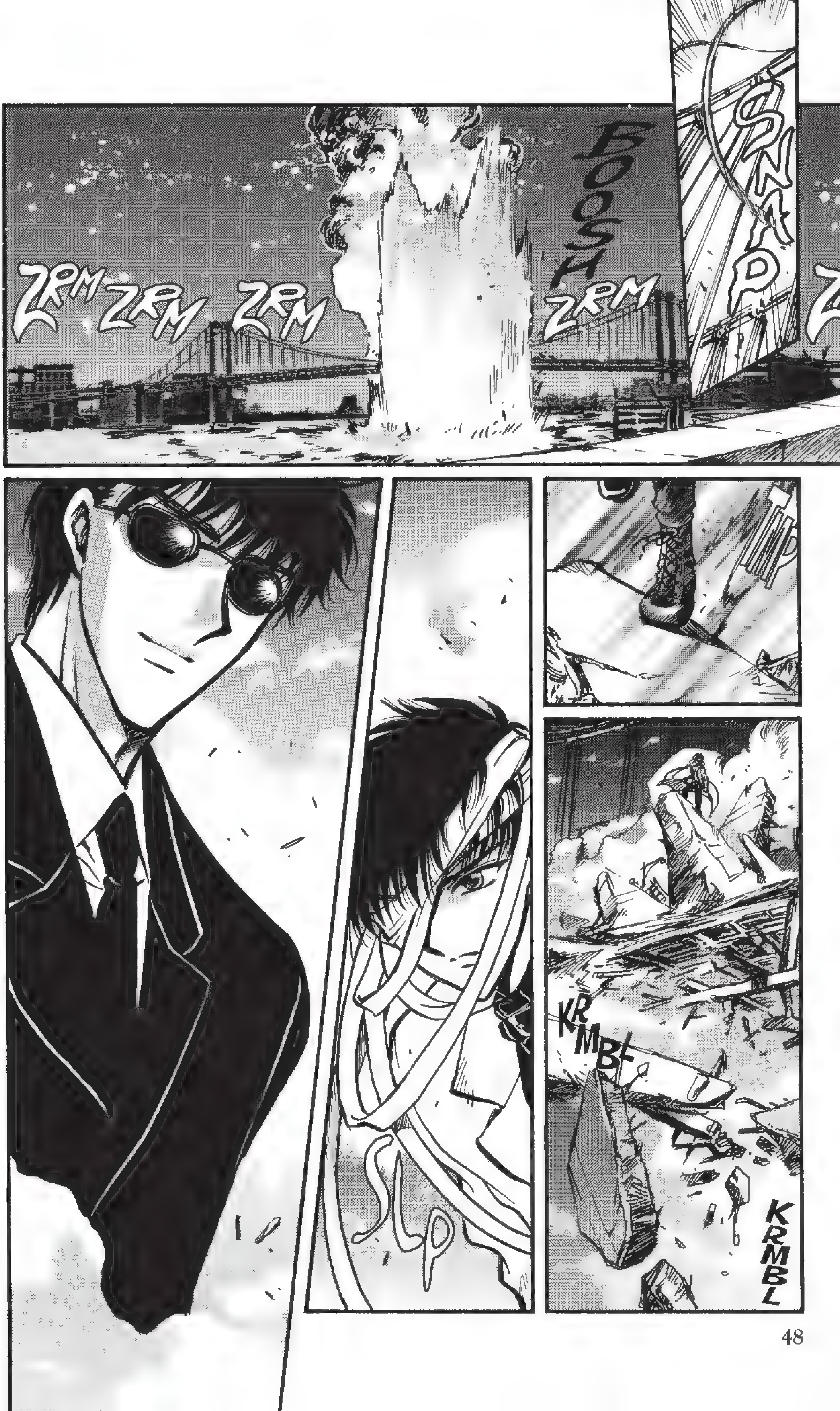

...THAT THE FUTURE CANNOT BE CHANGED.

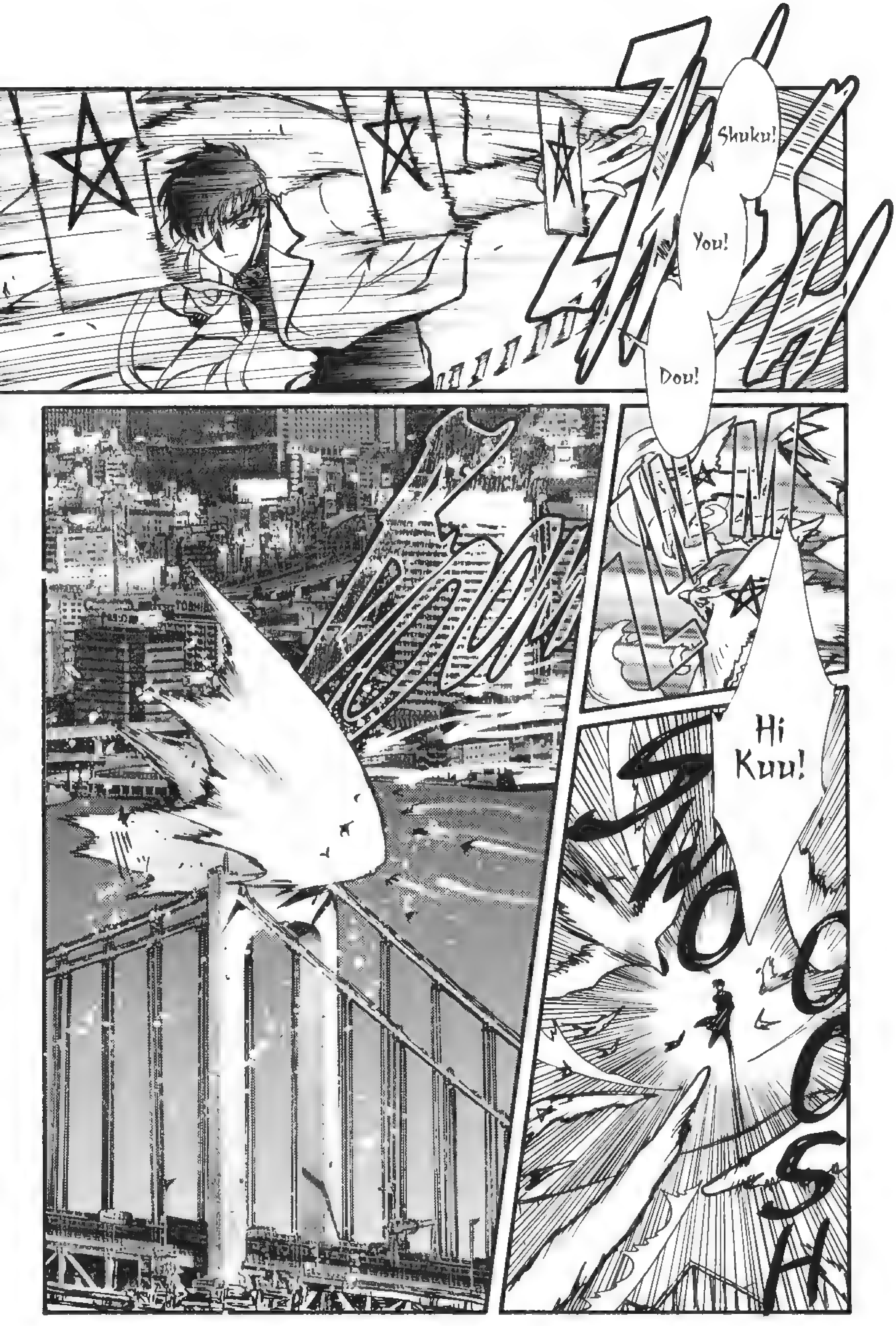

SHFFT
ZIN
SH
WHIP
ZZZT
SZZT
WHIP
ZZZT

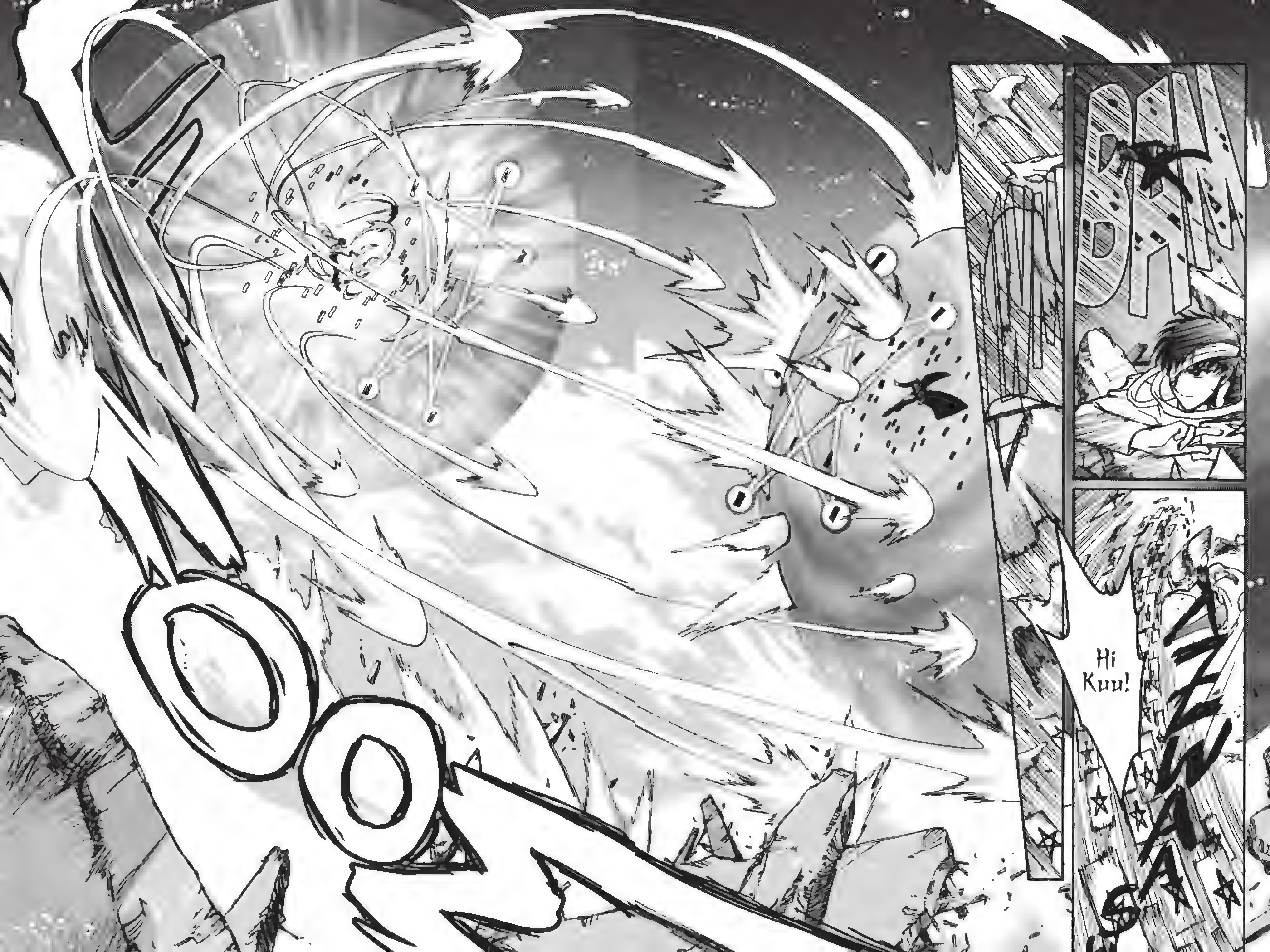

KRAK

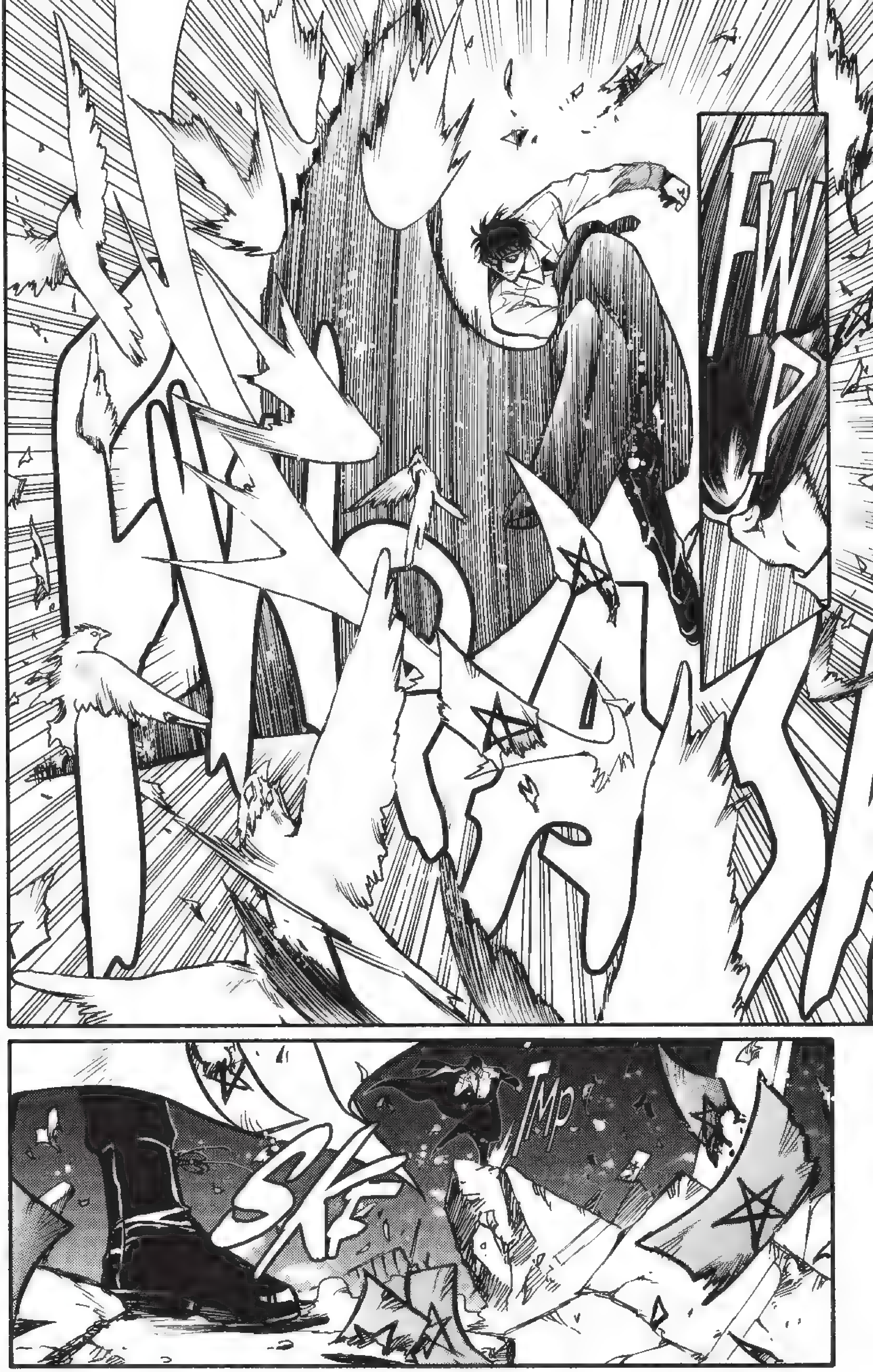

BRA
M

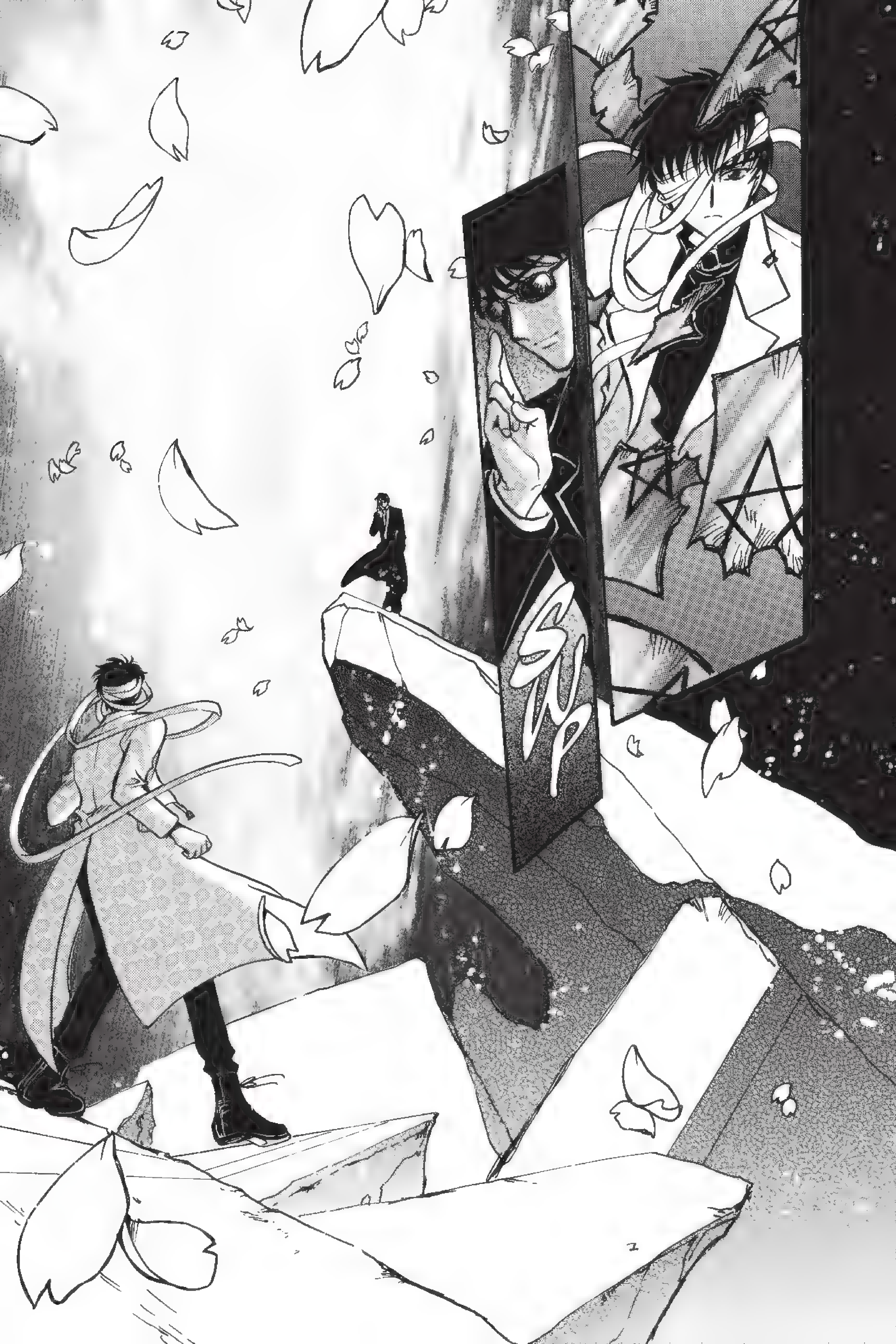

BO
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
SWP

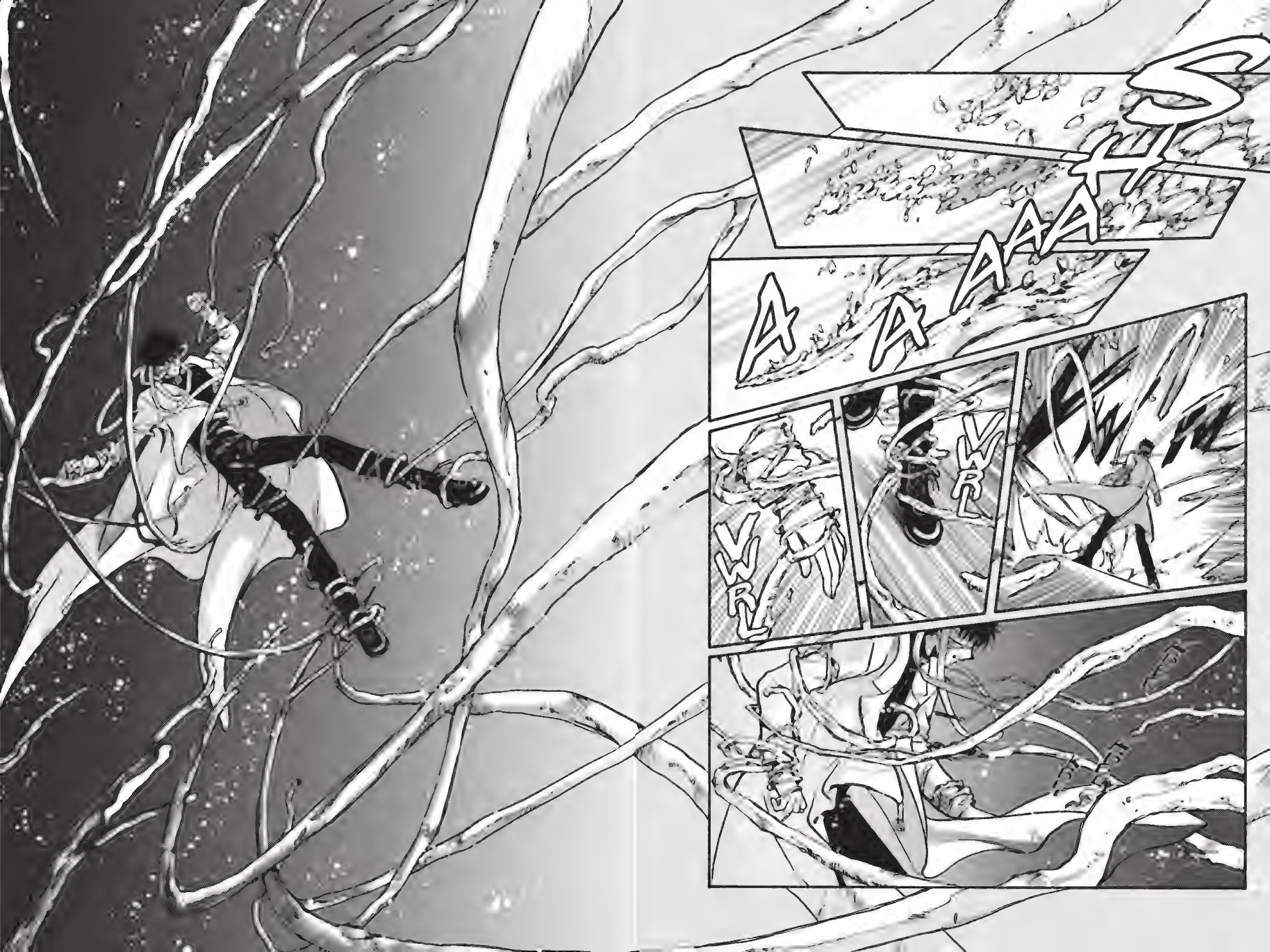

SNAP
FOOSH
ZRM
ZRM
ZRM
ZRM
KRMBL
KRMBL
SLP

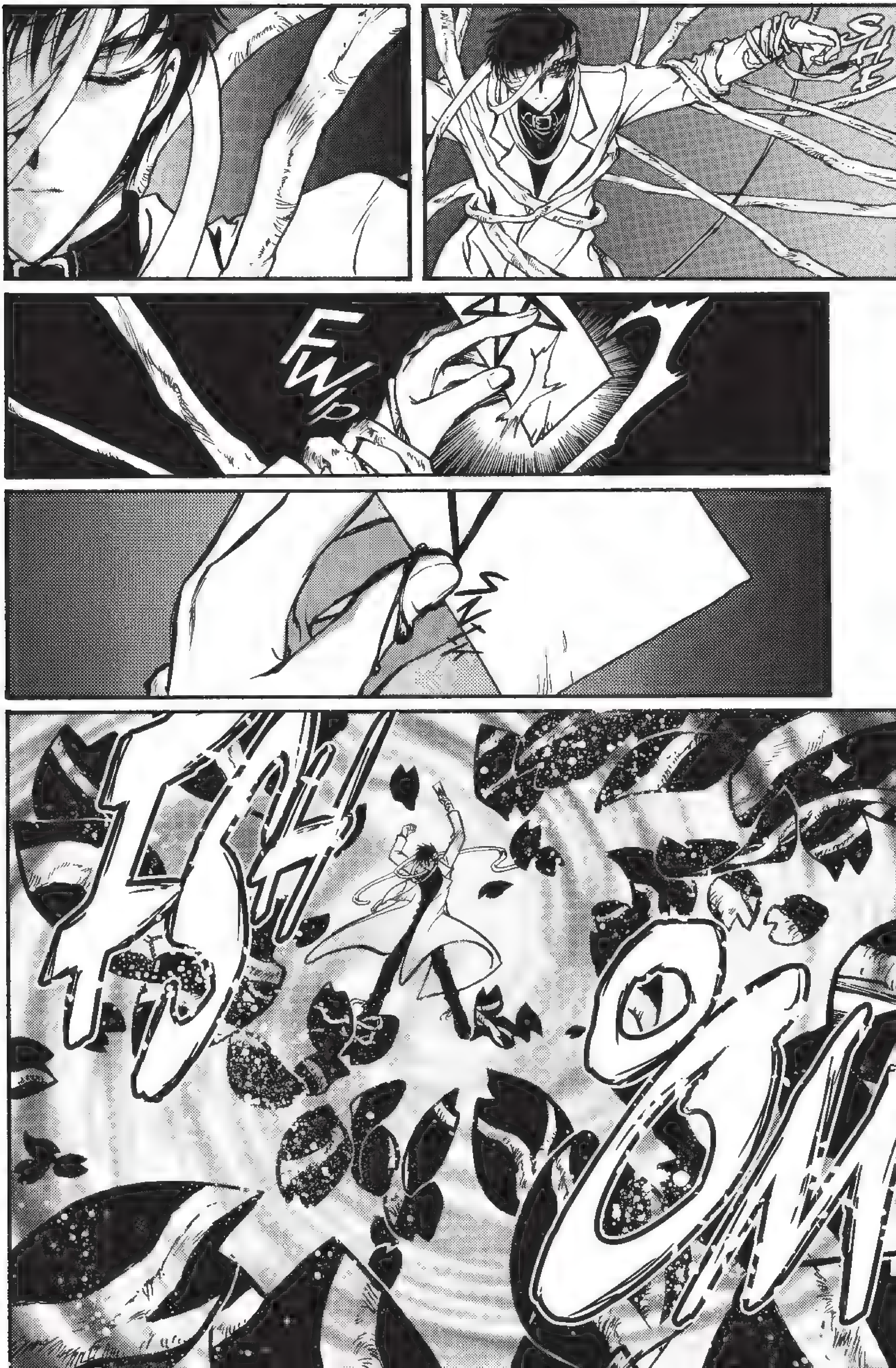

Shuku!
You!
Dou!
Hi Kuu!
SHOOOOSH

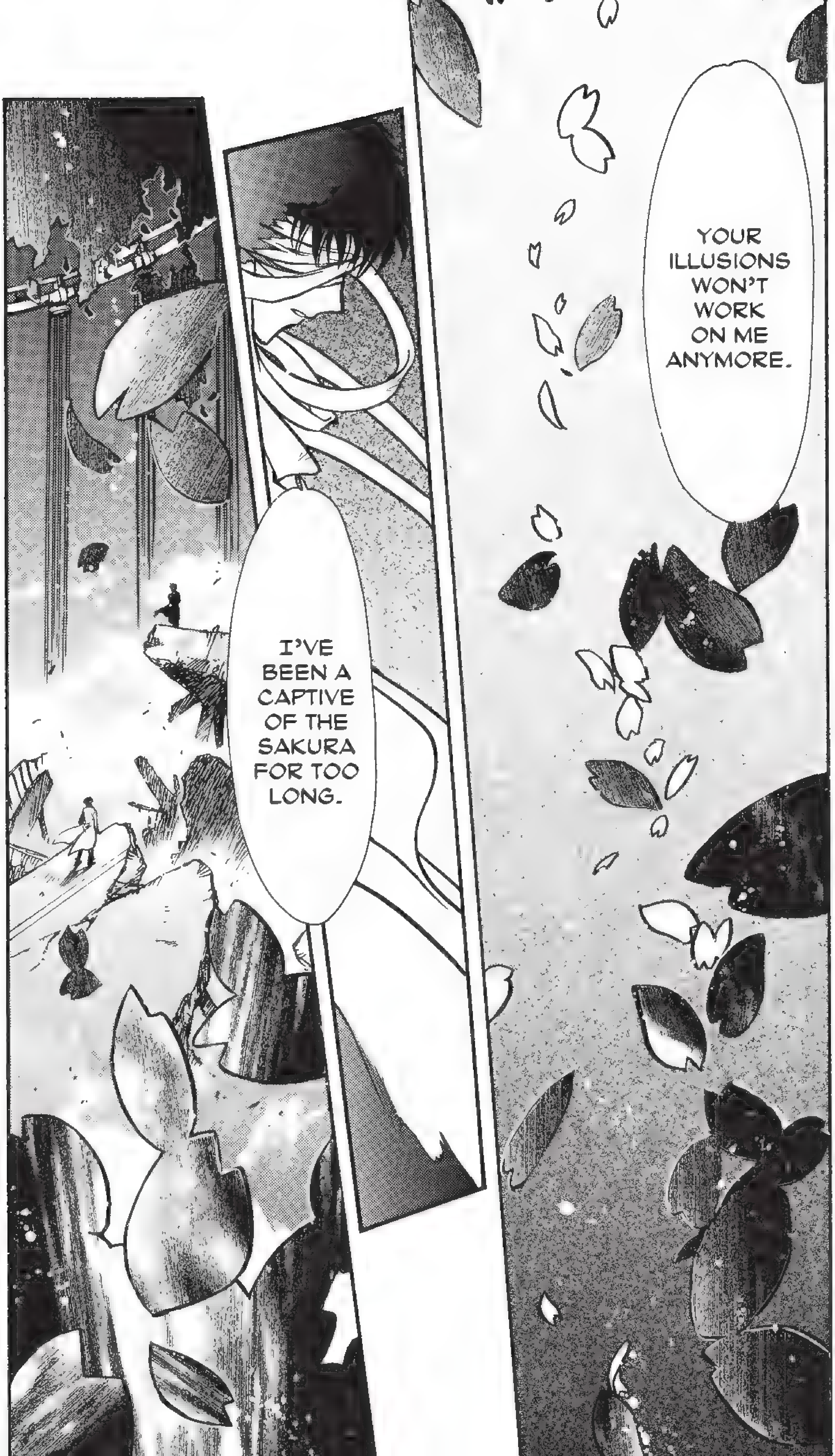

DAN
DAN
Hi Kuu!
DOOO

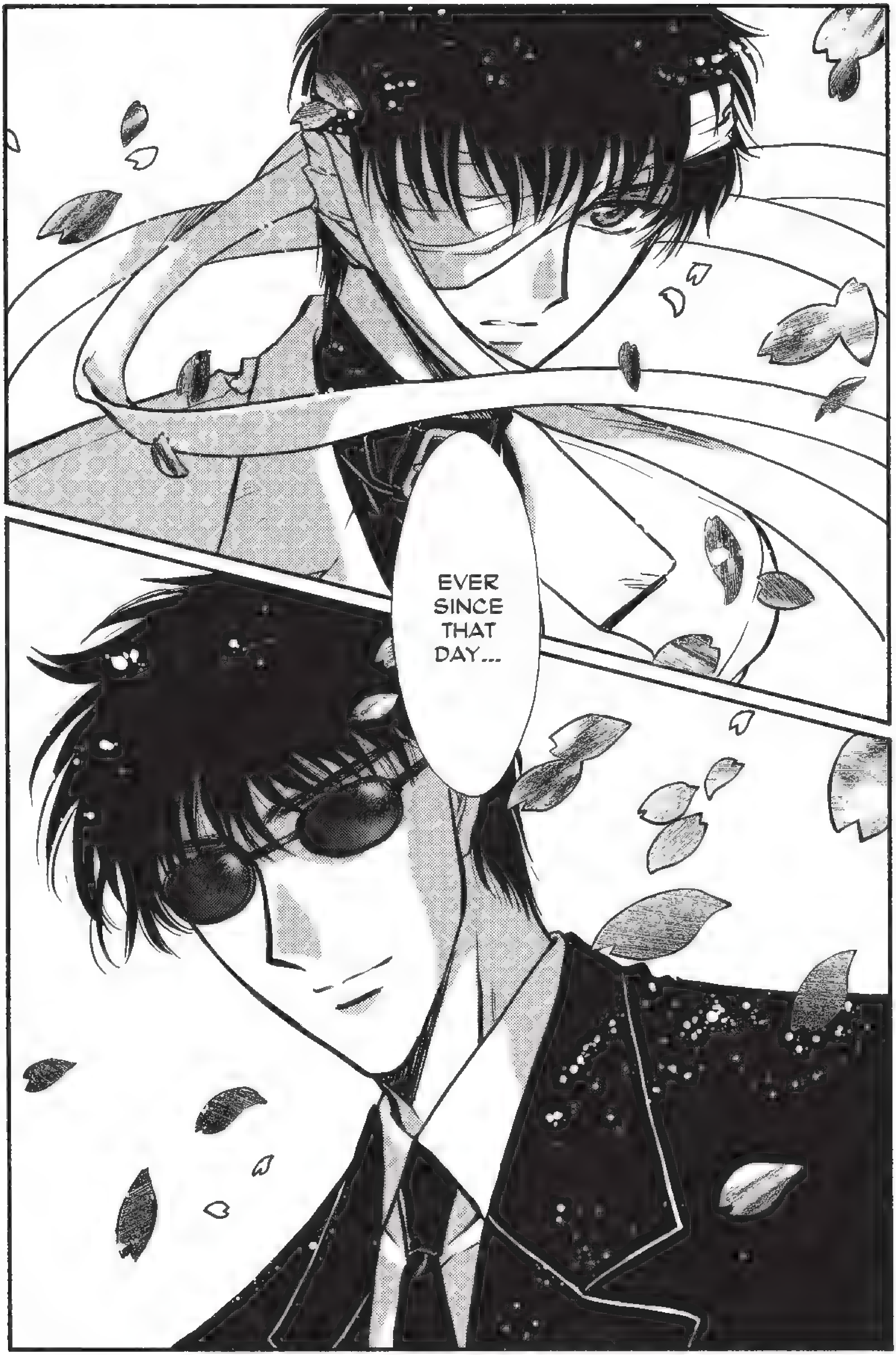

FWP
TMP
SKF

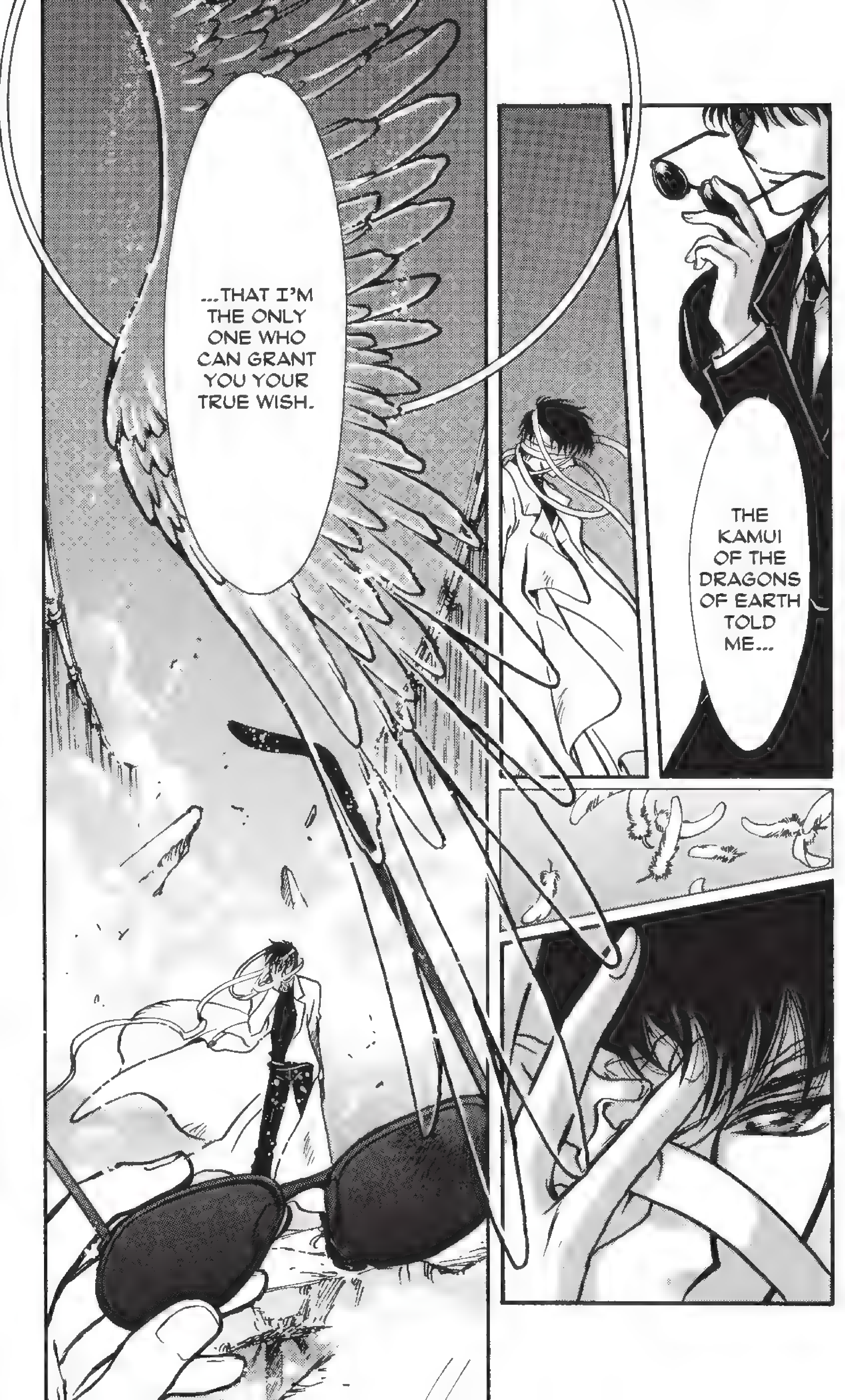

SWP

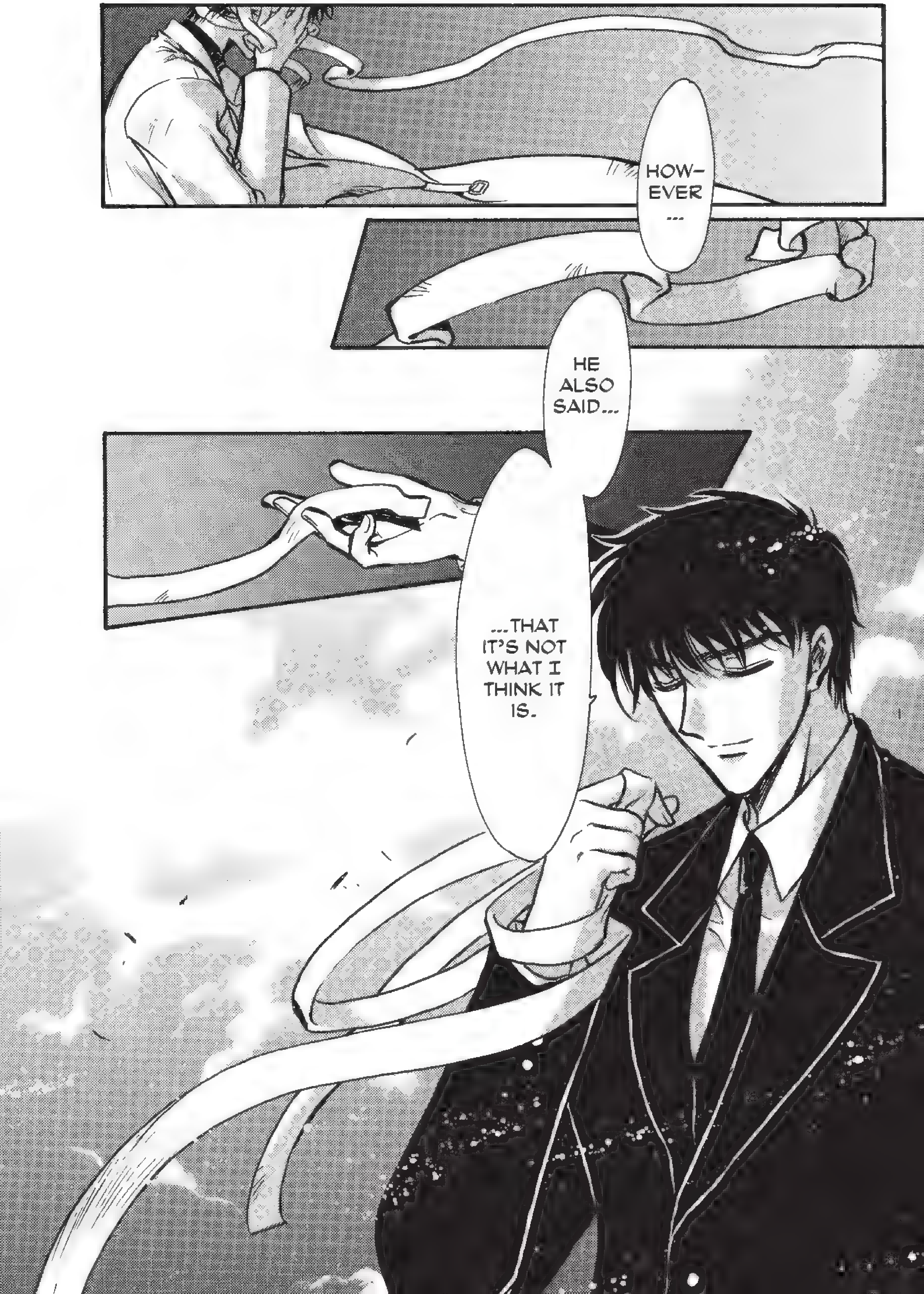

SHAAAAA
VWRL
VWRL

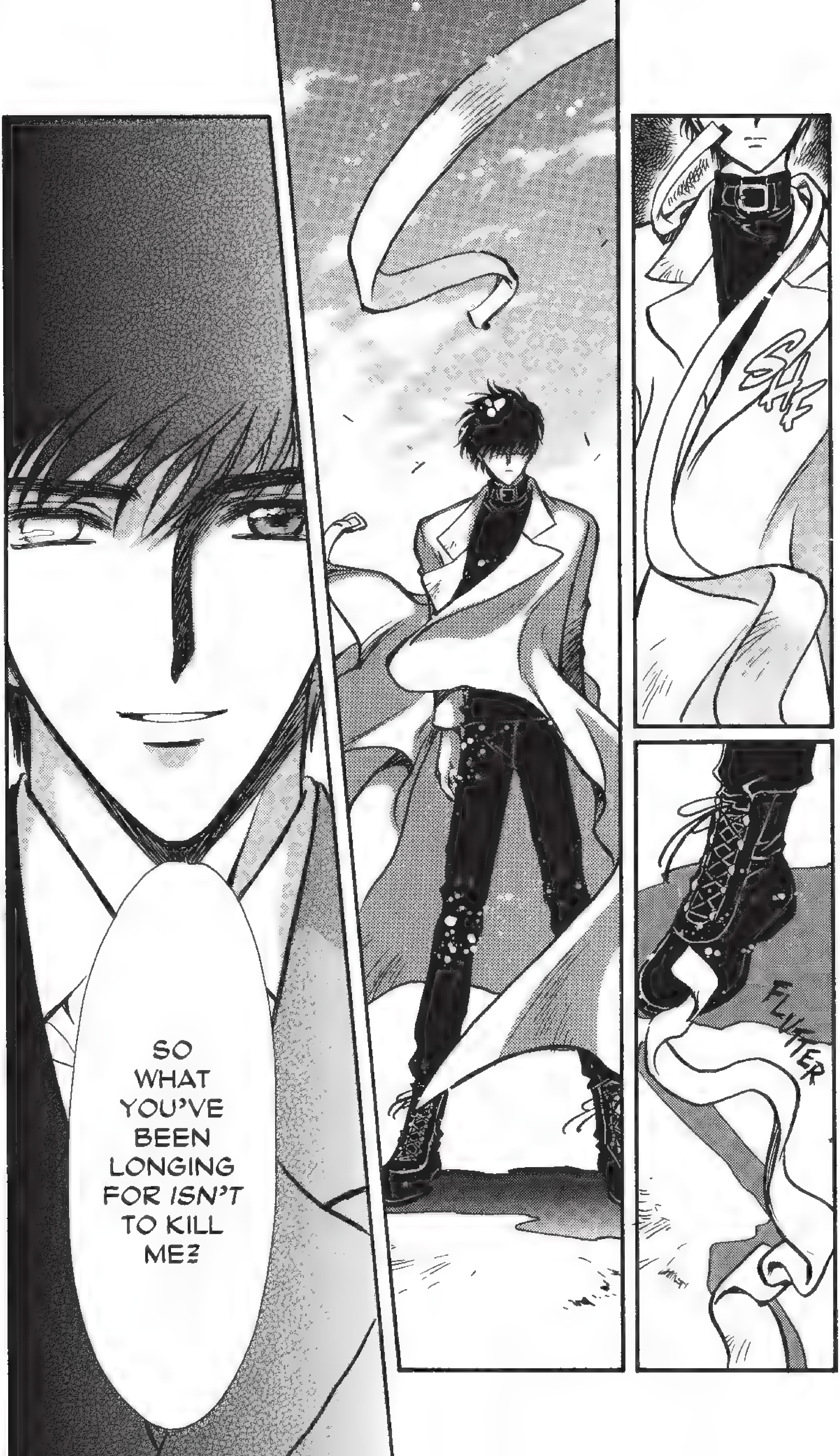

SHA
FWIP
SNK

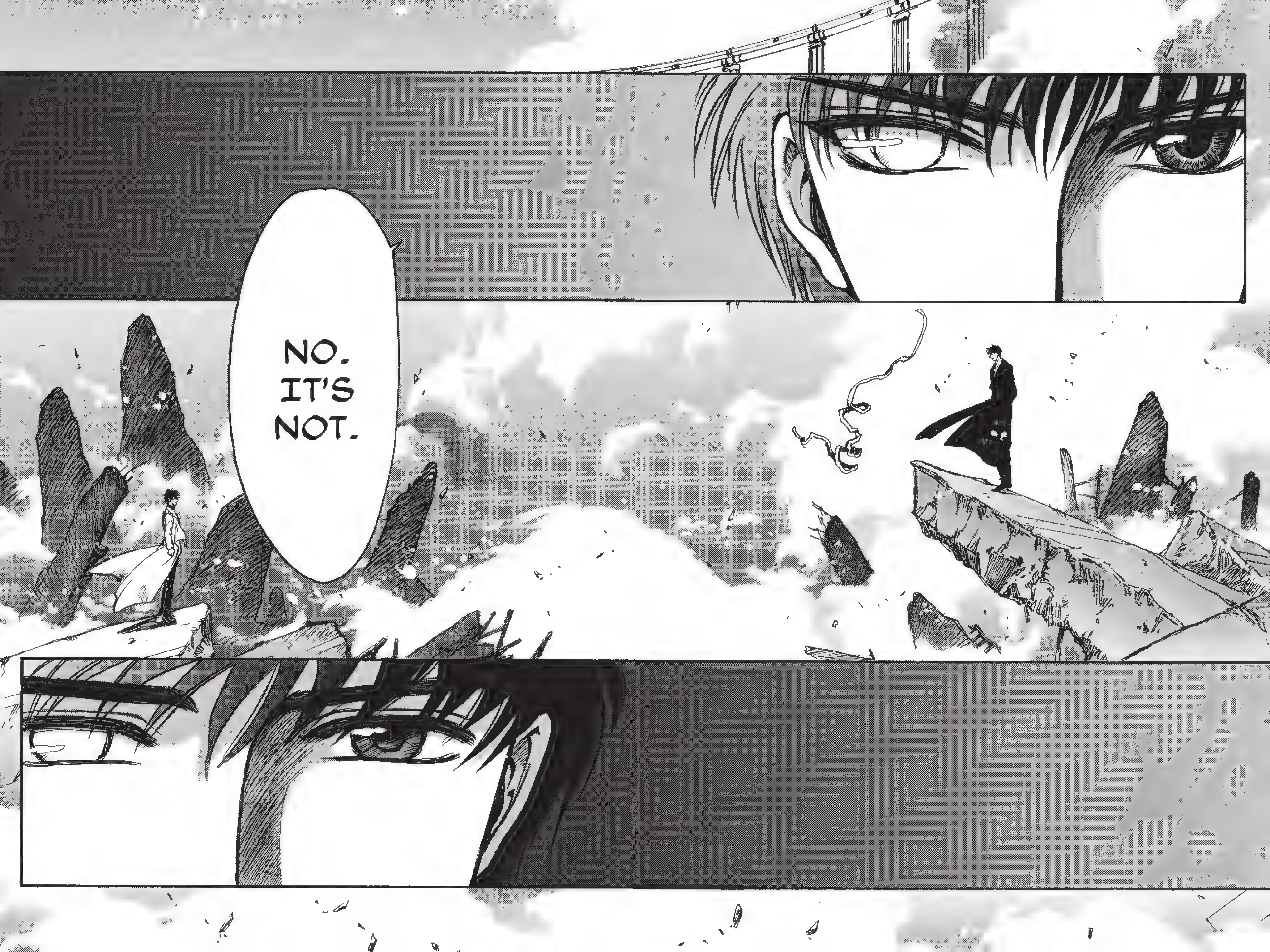

YOUR ILLUSIONS WON'T WORK ON ME ANYMORE.
I'VE BEEN A CAPTIVE OF THE SAKURA FOR TOO LONG.

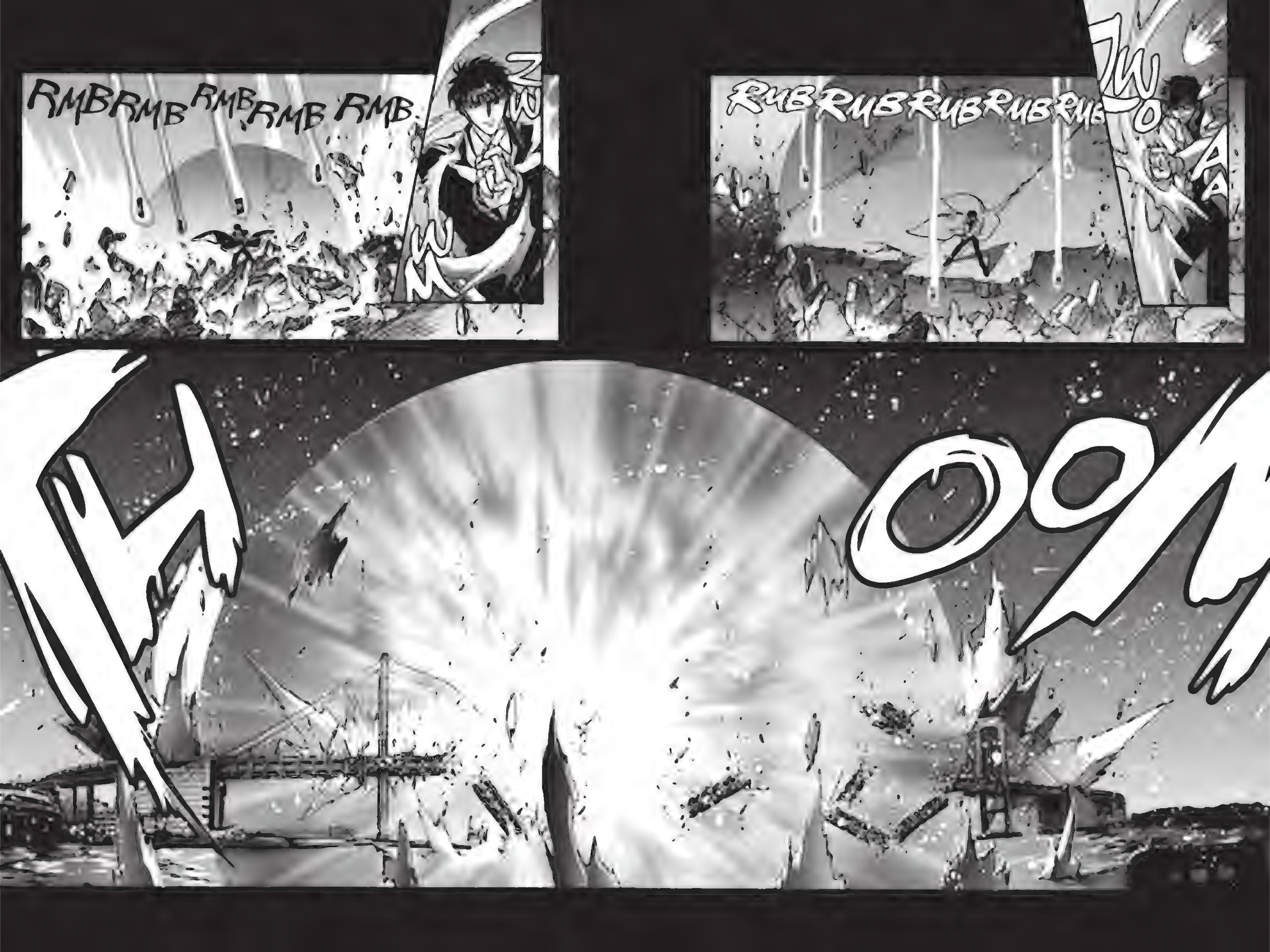

EVER SINCE THAT DAY...


THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH TOLD ME...
...THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GRANT YOU YOUR TRUE WISH.

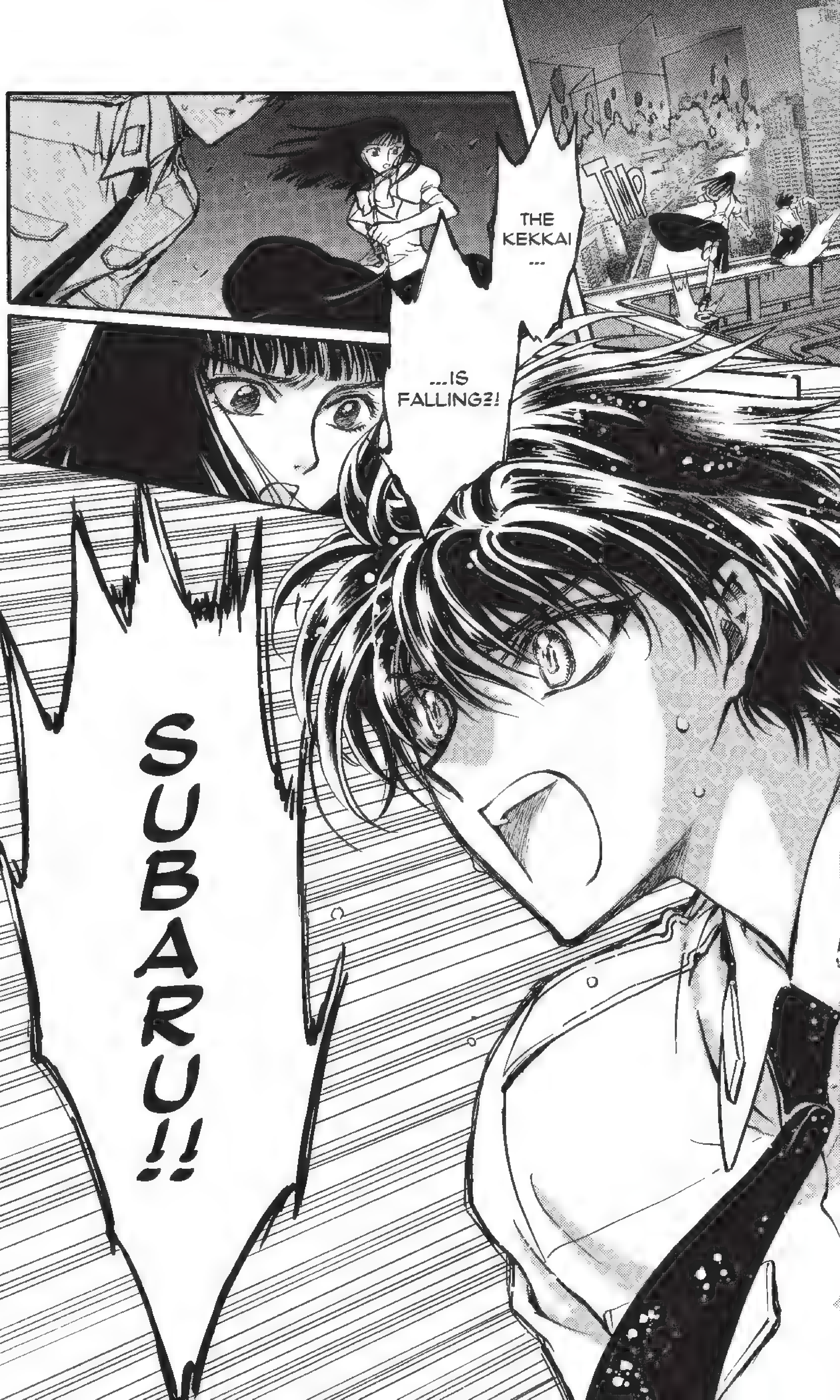

HOW-EVER ...
HE ALSO SAID...
...THAT IT'S NOT WHAT I THINK IT IS.

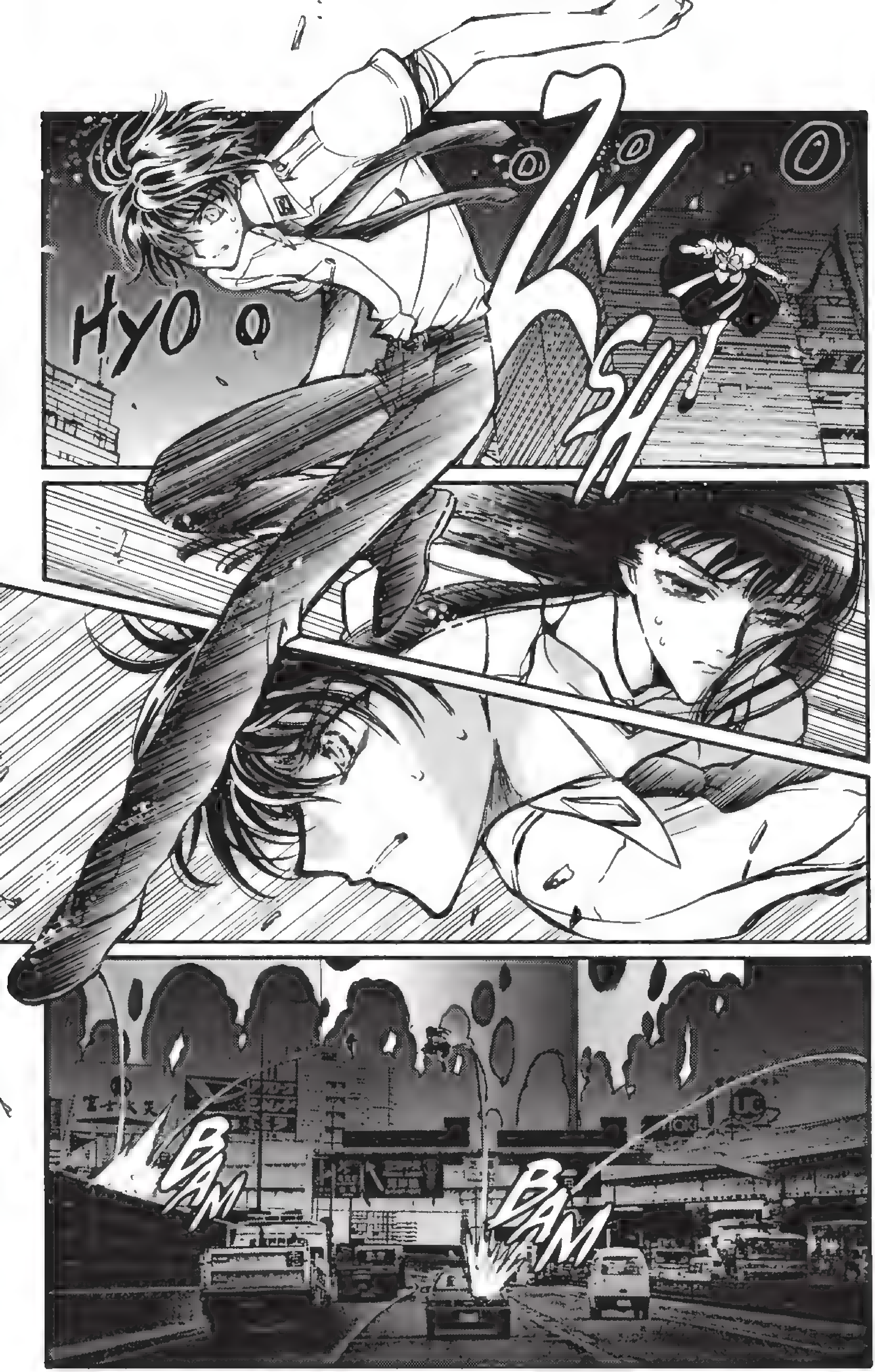

SHA
FLUTTER
SO WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LONGING FOR *ISN'T* TO KILL ME?

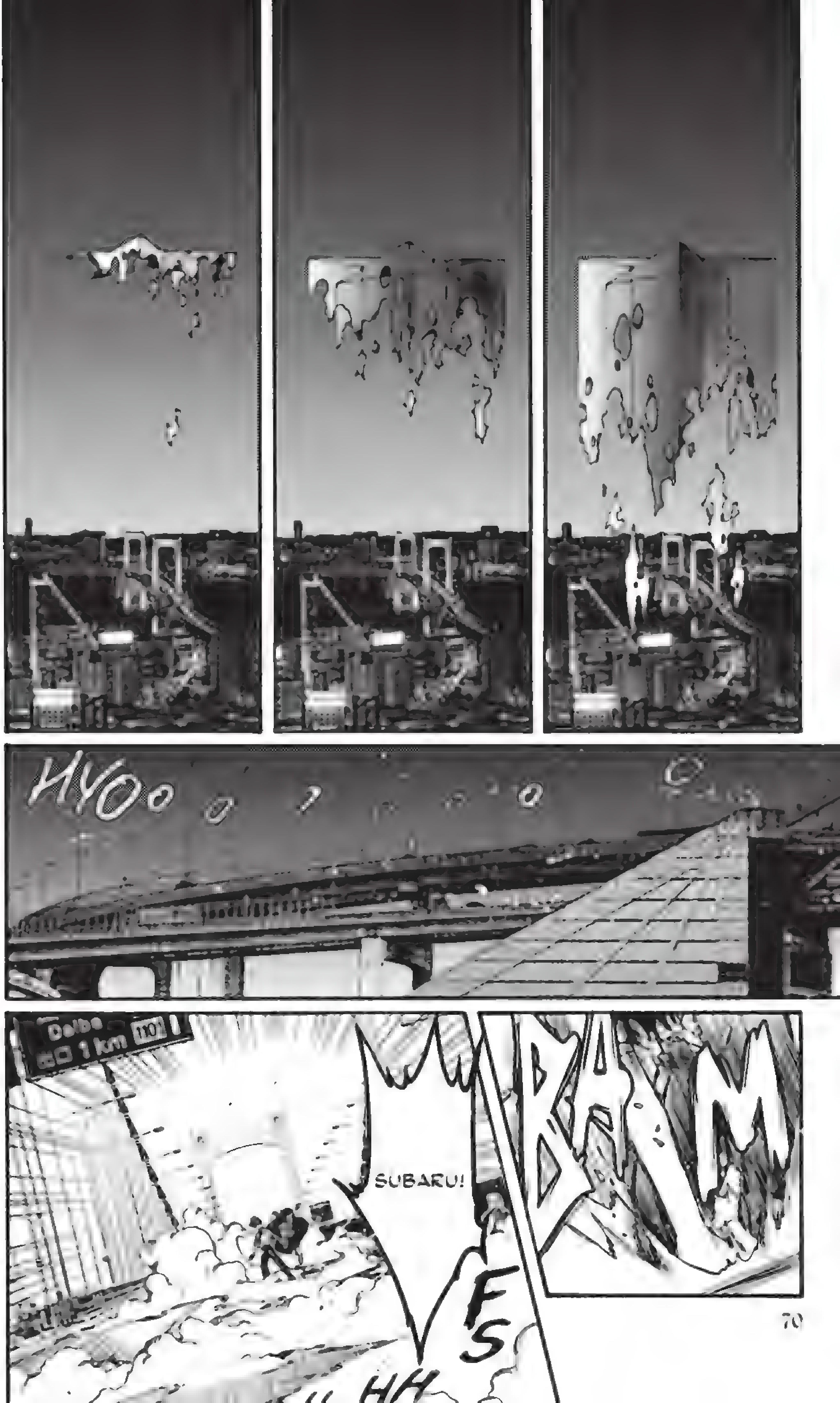

NO. IT'S NOT.

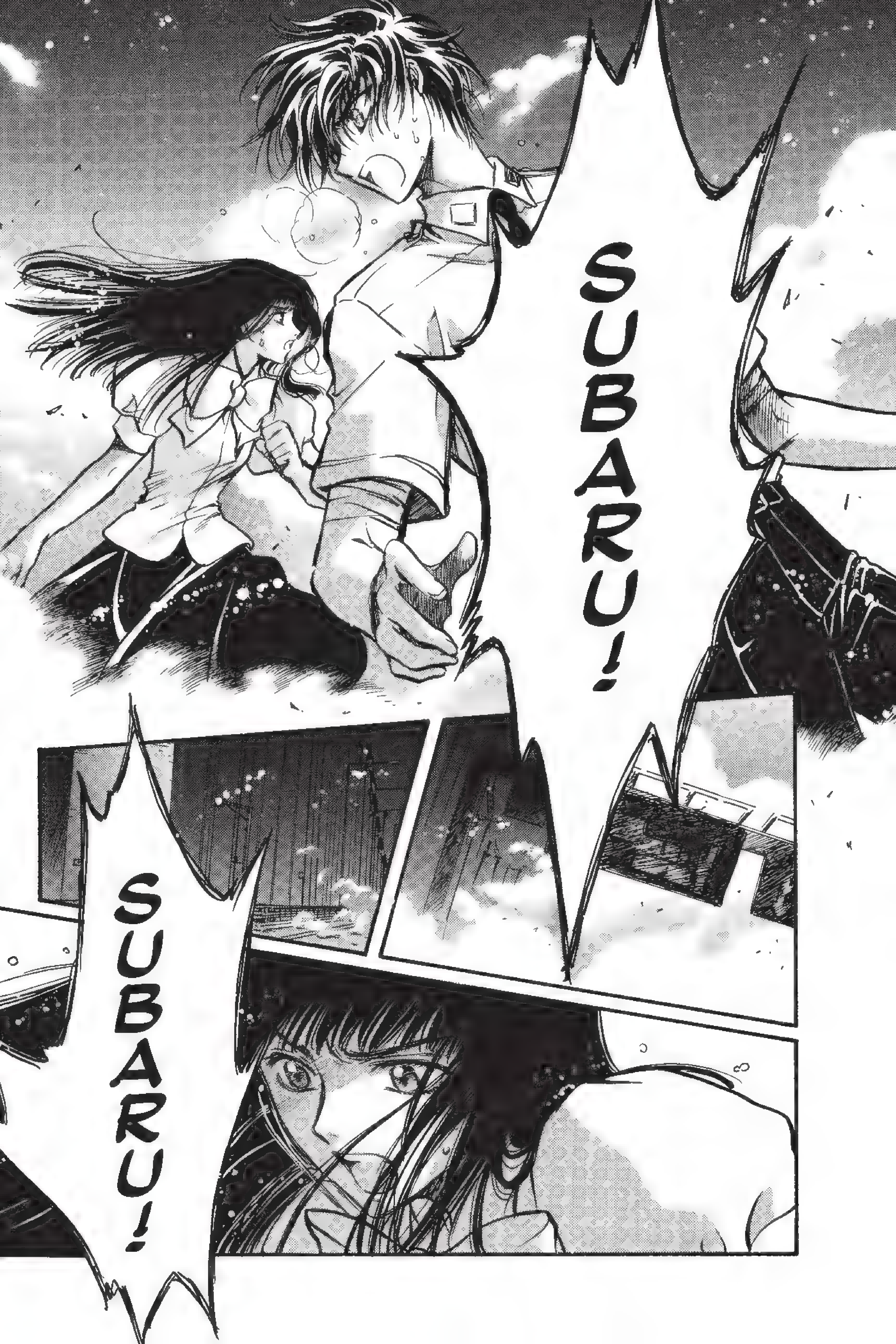

RUB RUB RUB RUB RUB
WOAA
RMB RMB RMB RMB RMB
ZW
WM
H
OO

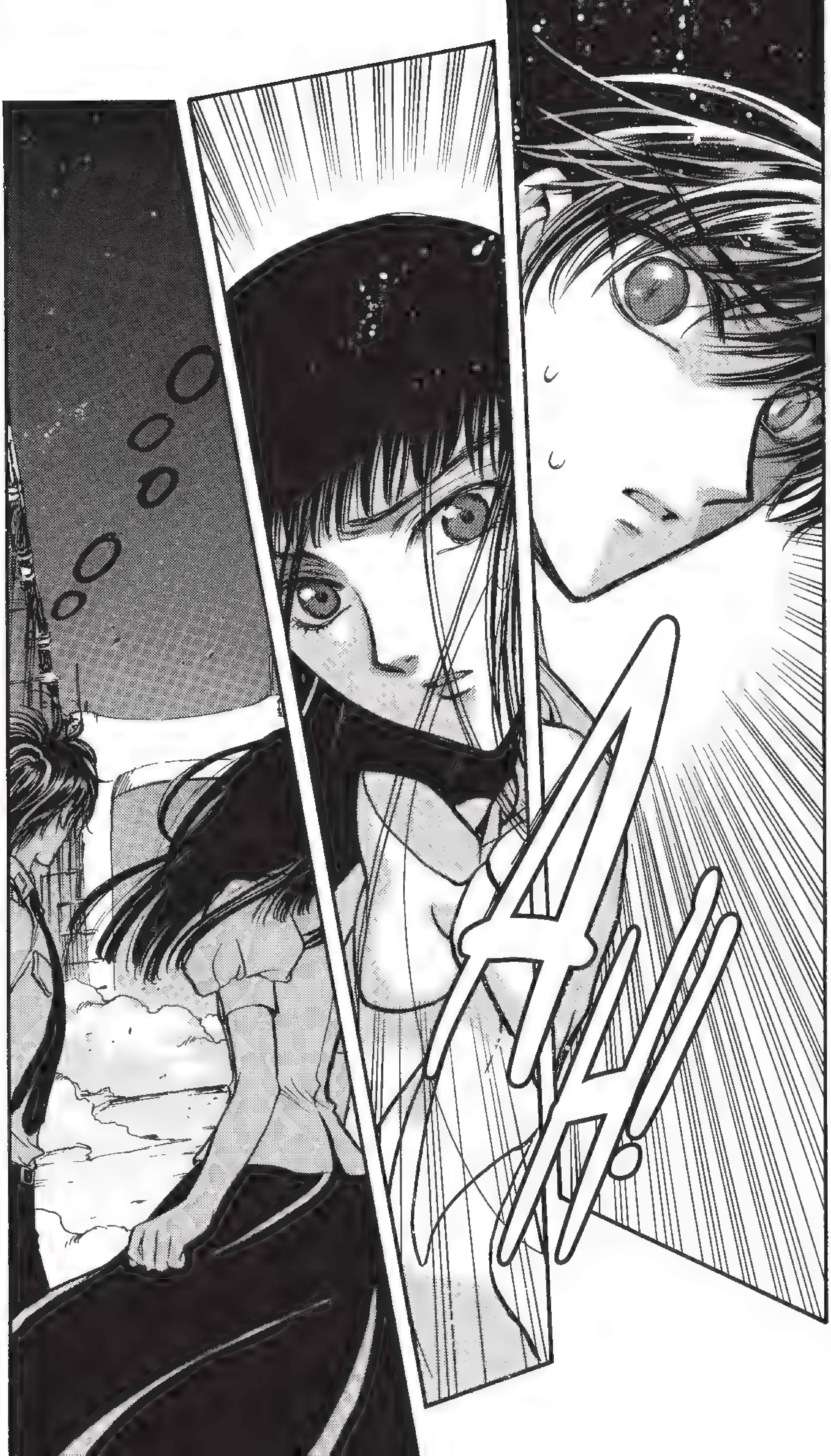
OOO
!!
CSHW

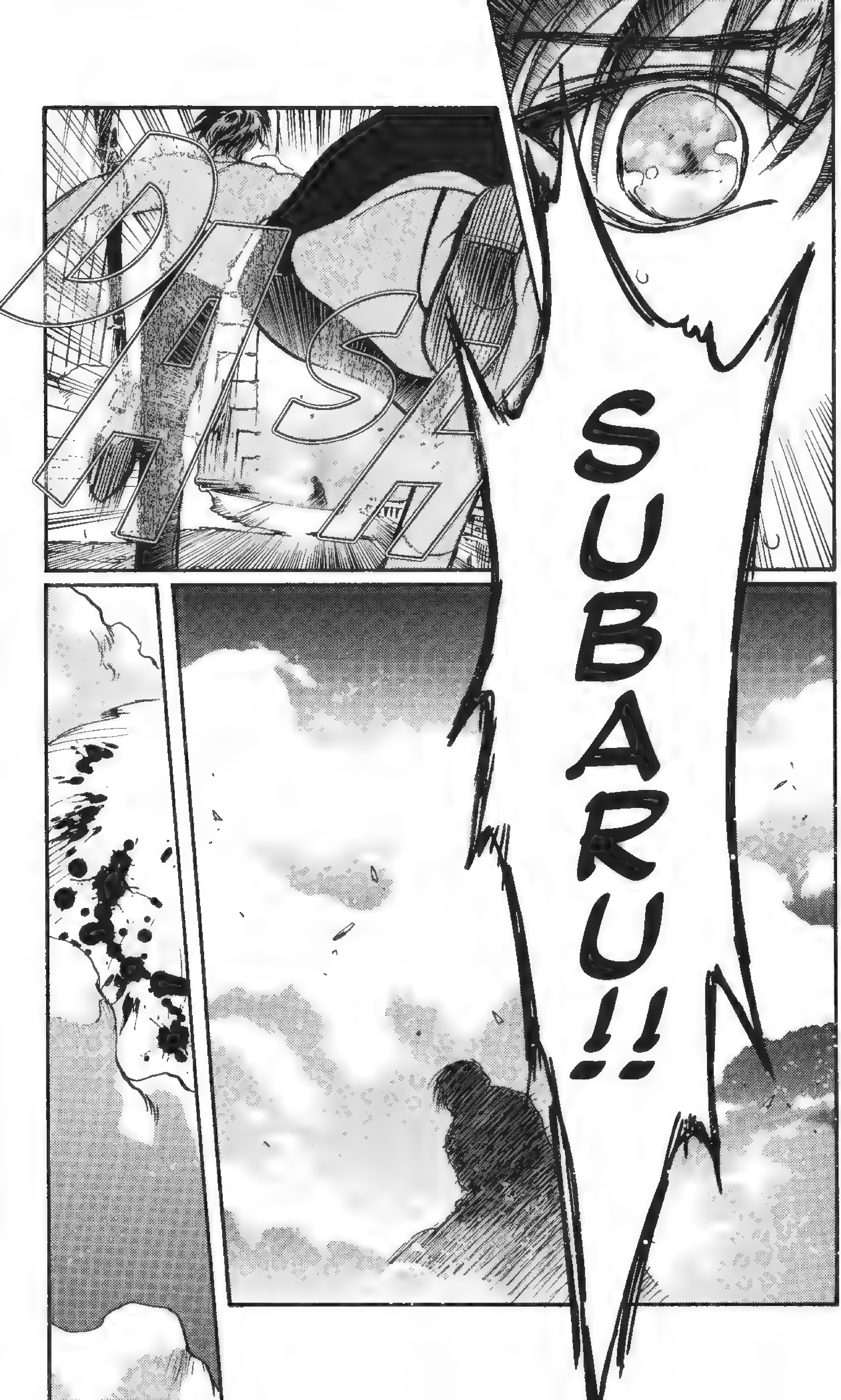

THE KEKKAI ...
...IS FALLING?!
SUBARU!!

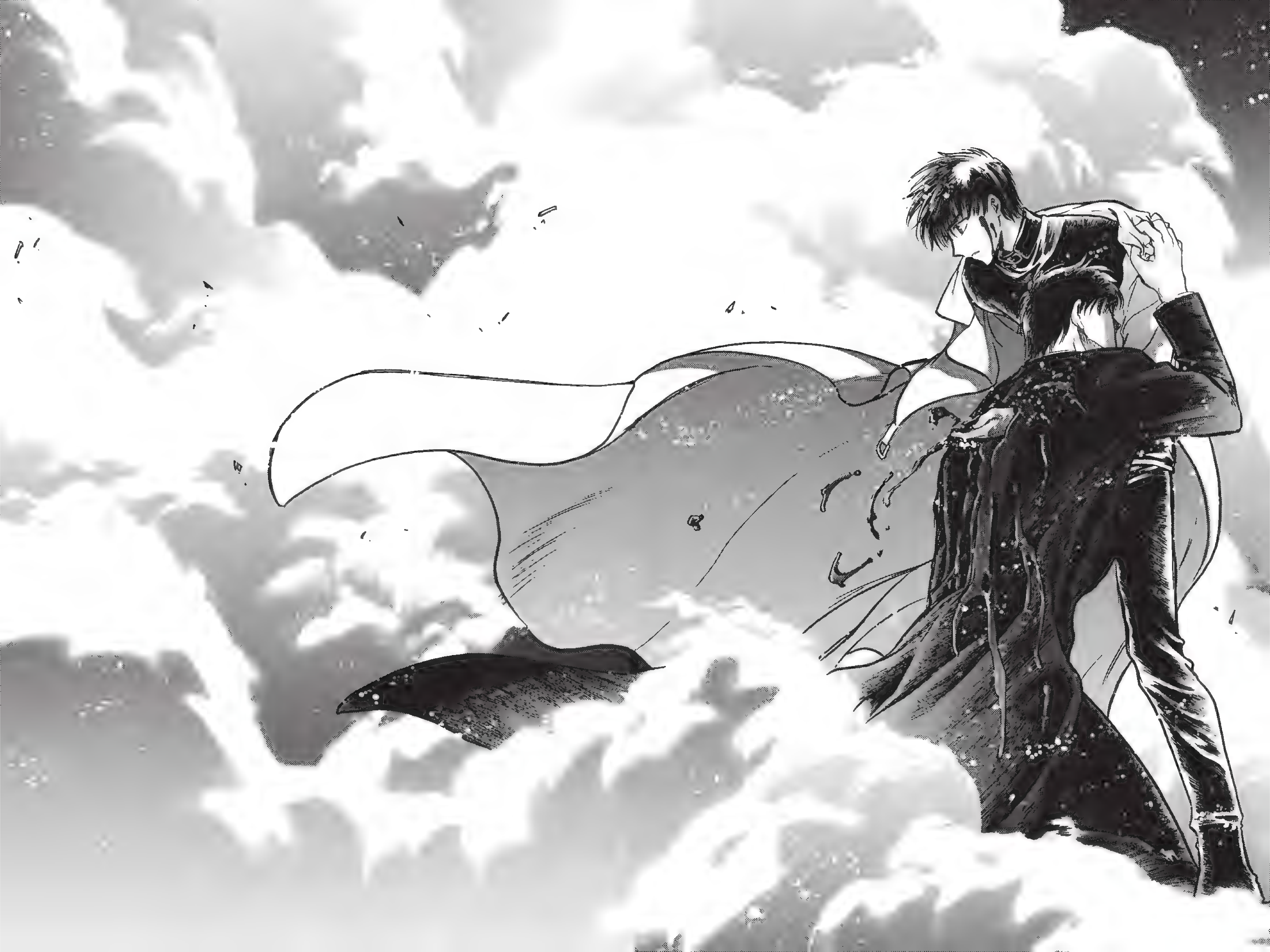

O O O
ZW
SH
HYO O
BAM
BAM

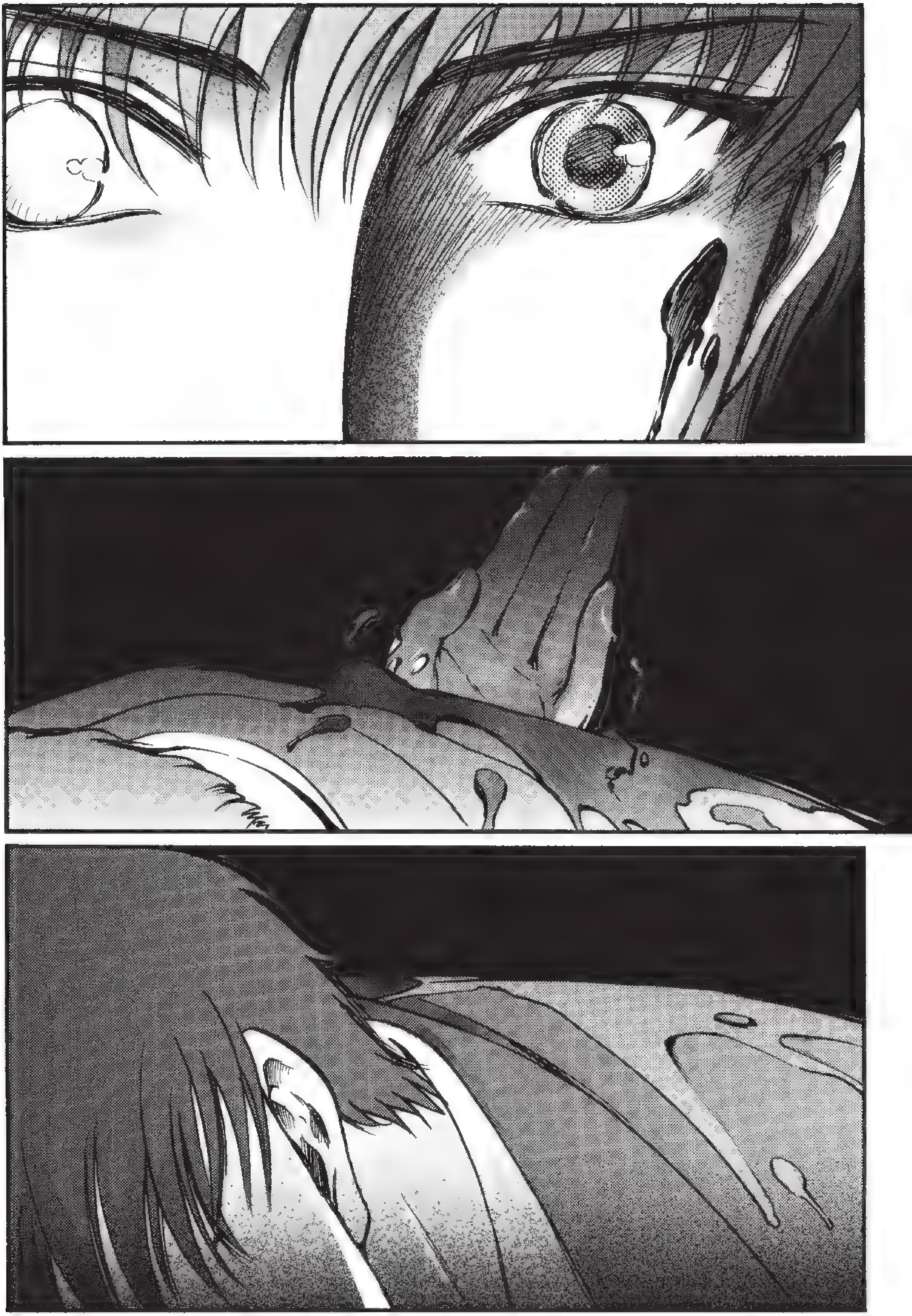

HYOooo
BAM
SUBARU!
FS
HH
Daiba 1 km 110

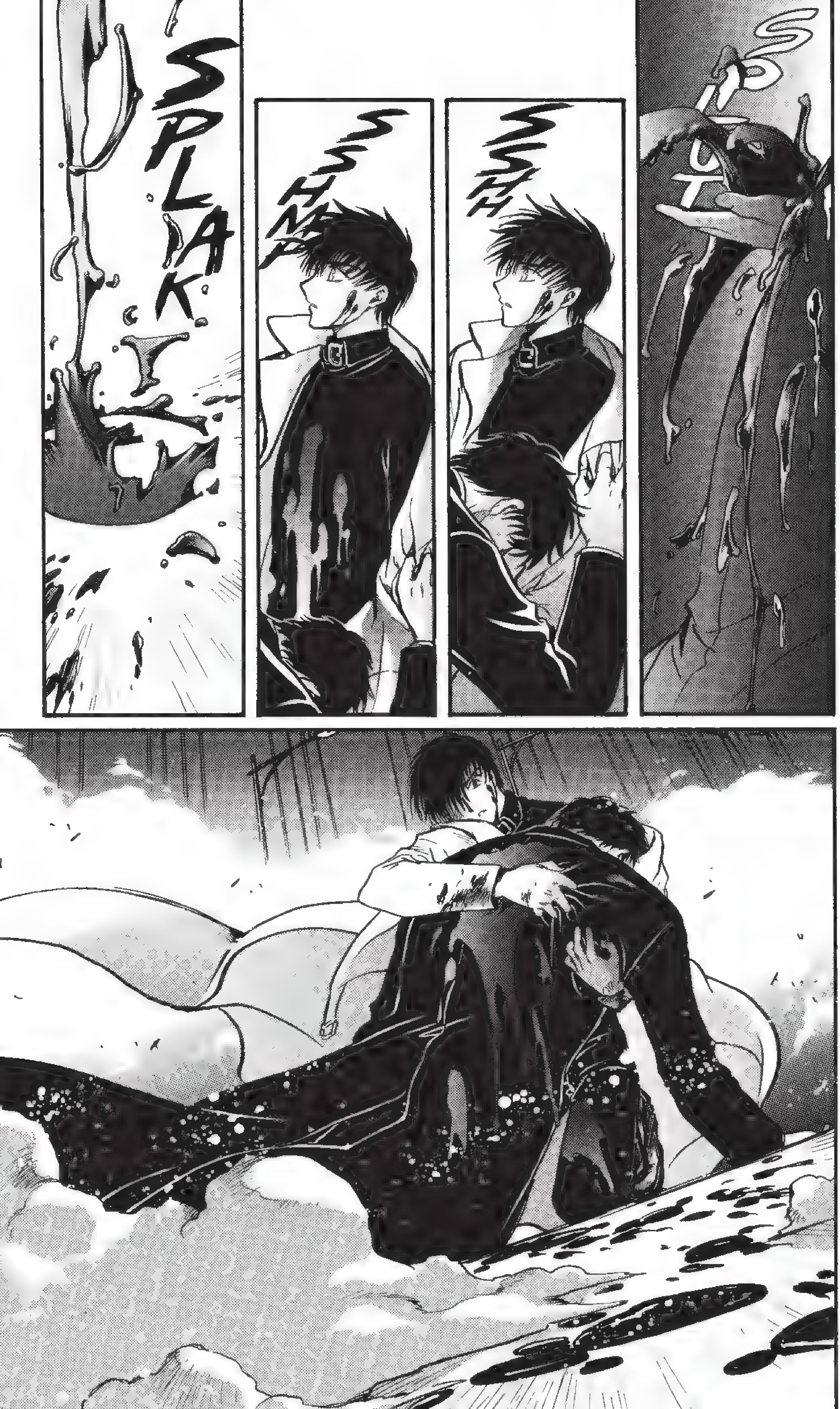

SUBARU!
SUBARU!

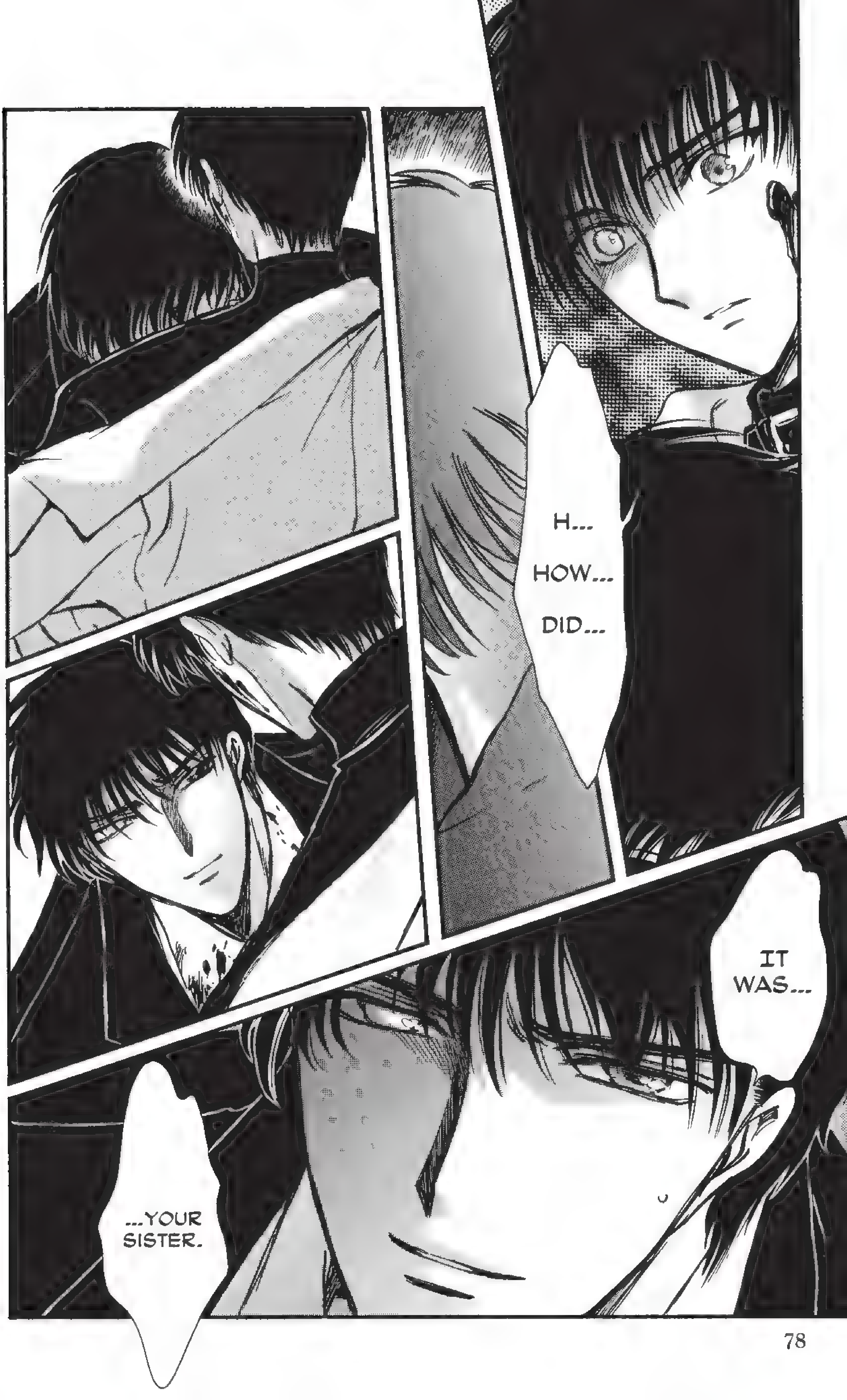

AH!

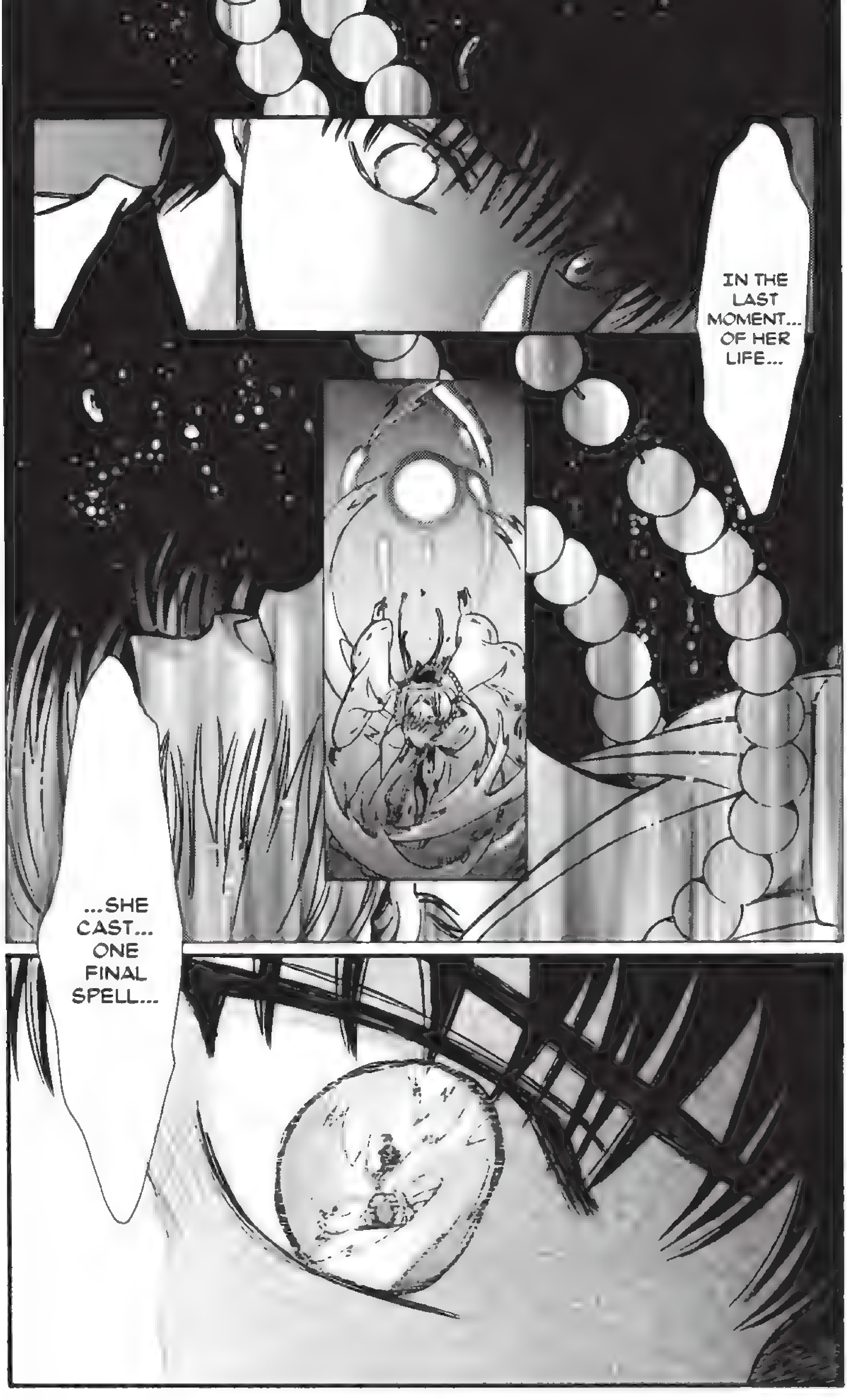

DASH
SUBARU!!

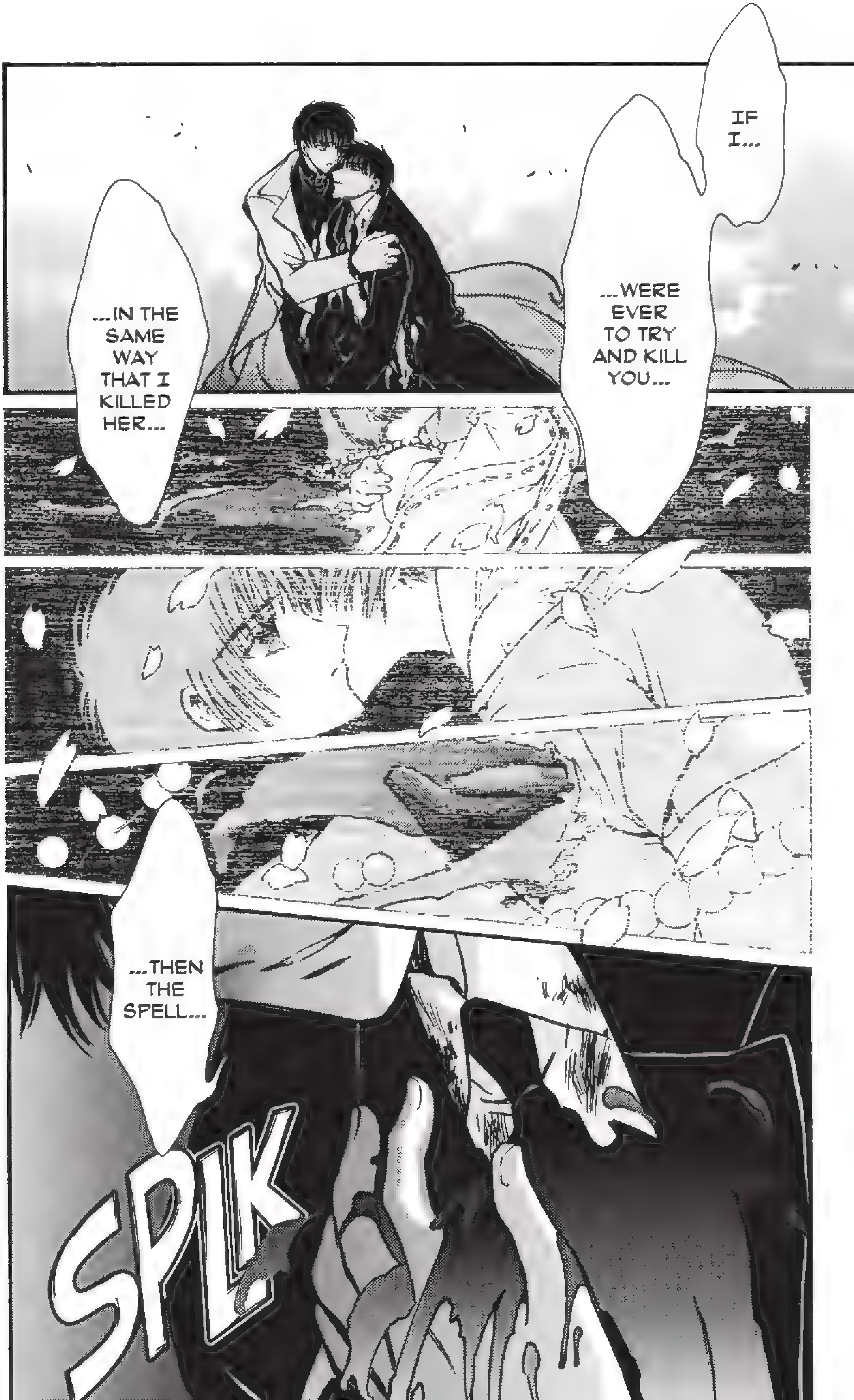


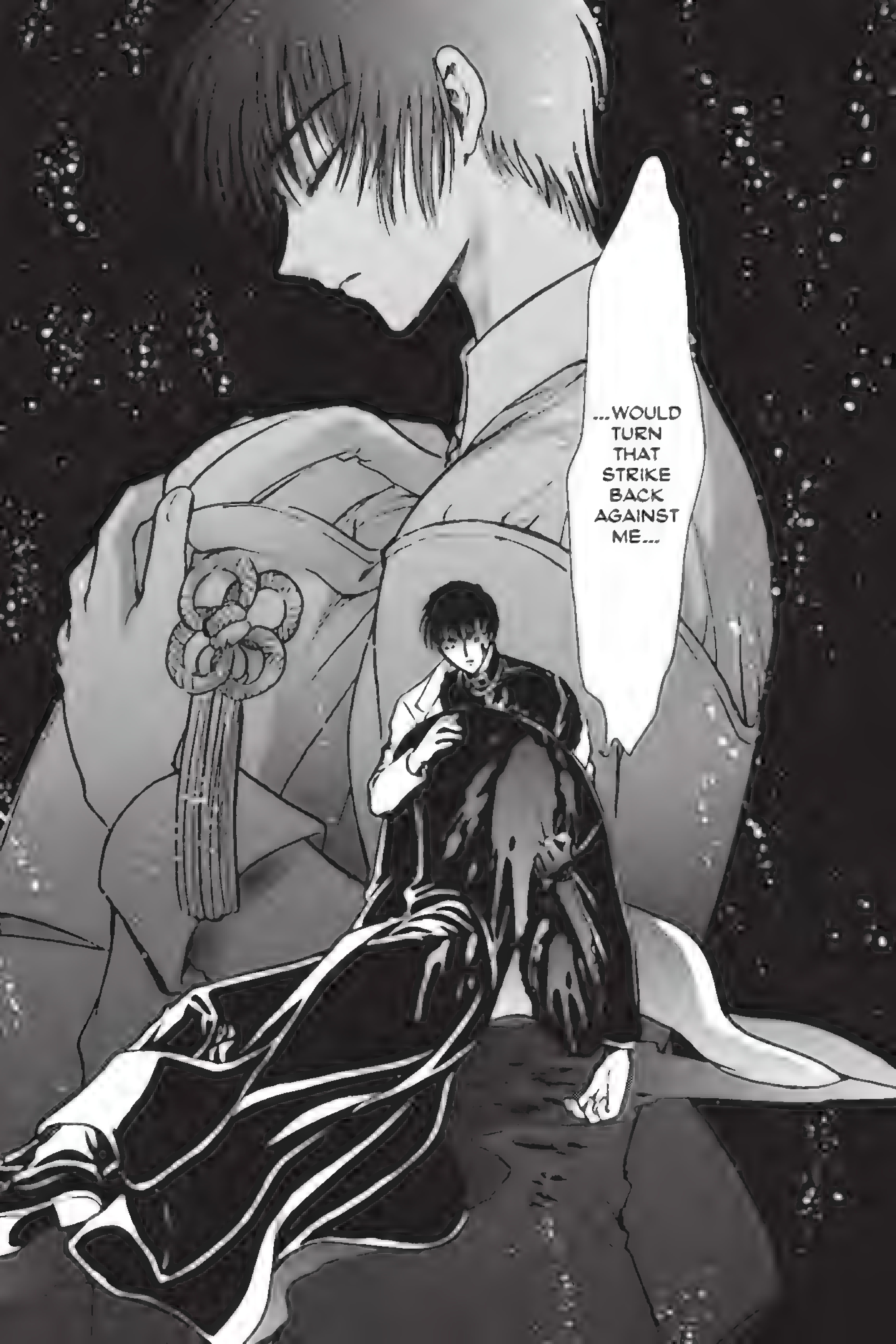


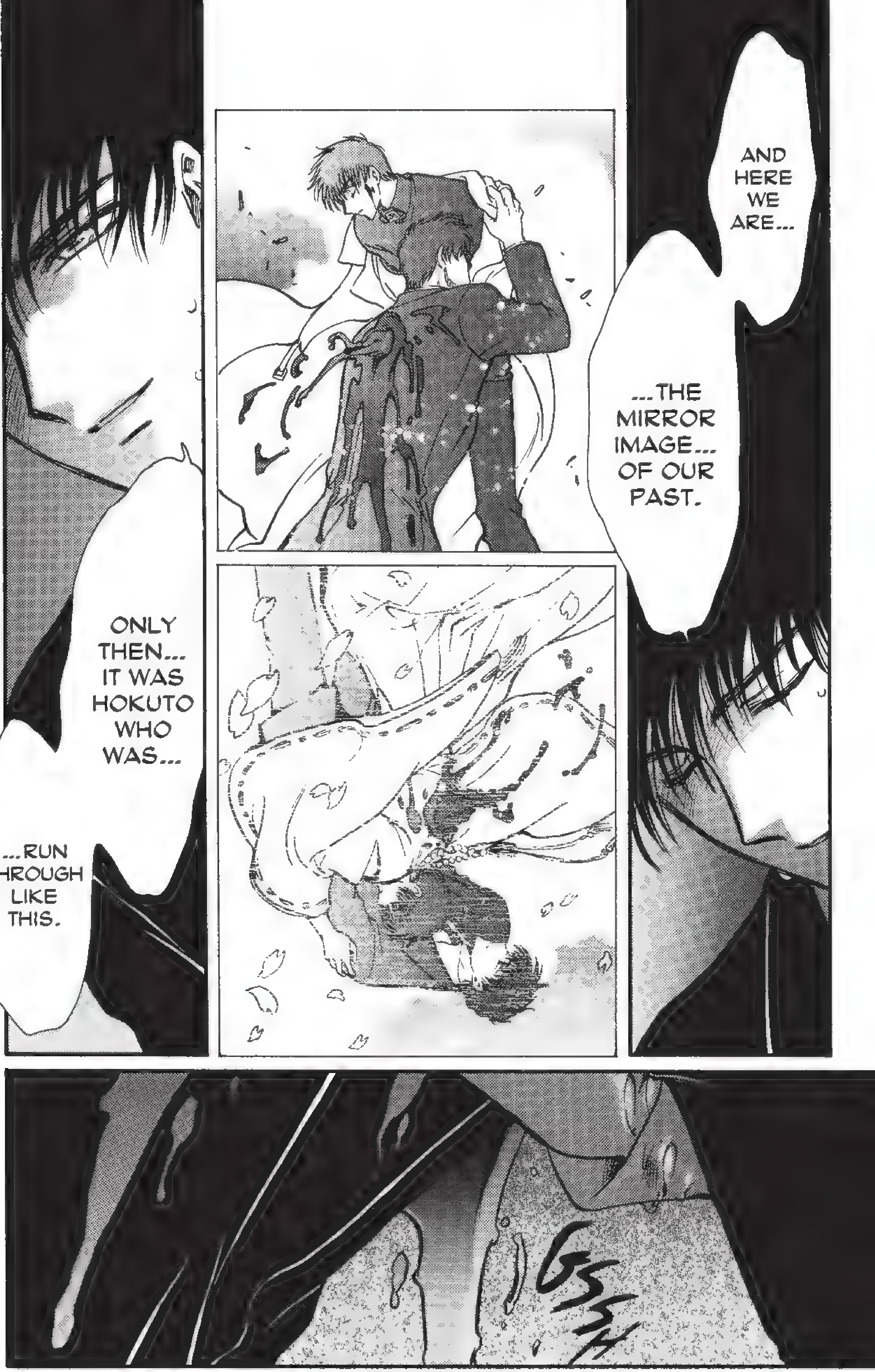

SPUT
SSHH
SSHNN
SPLAK

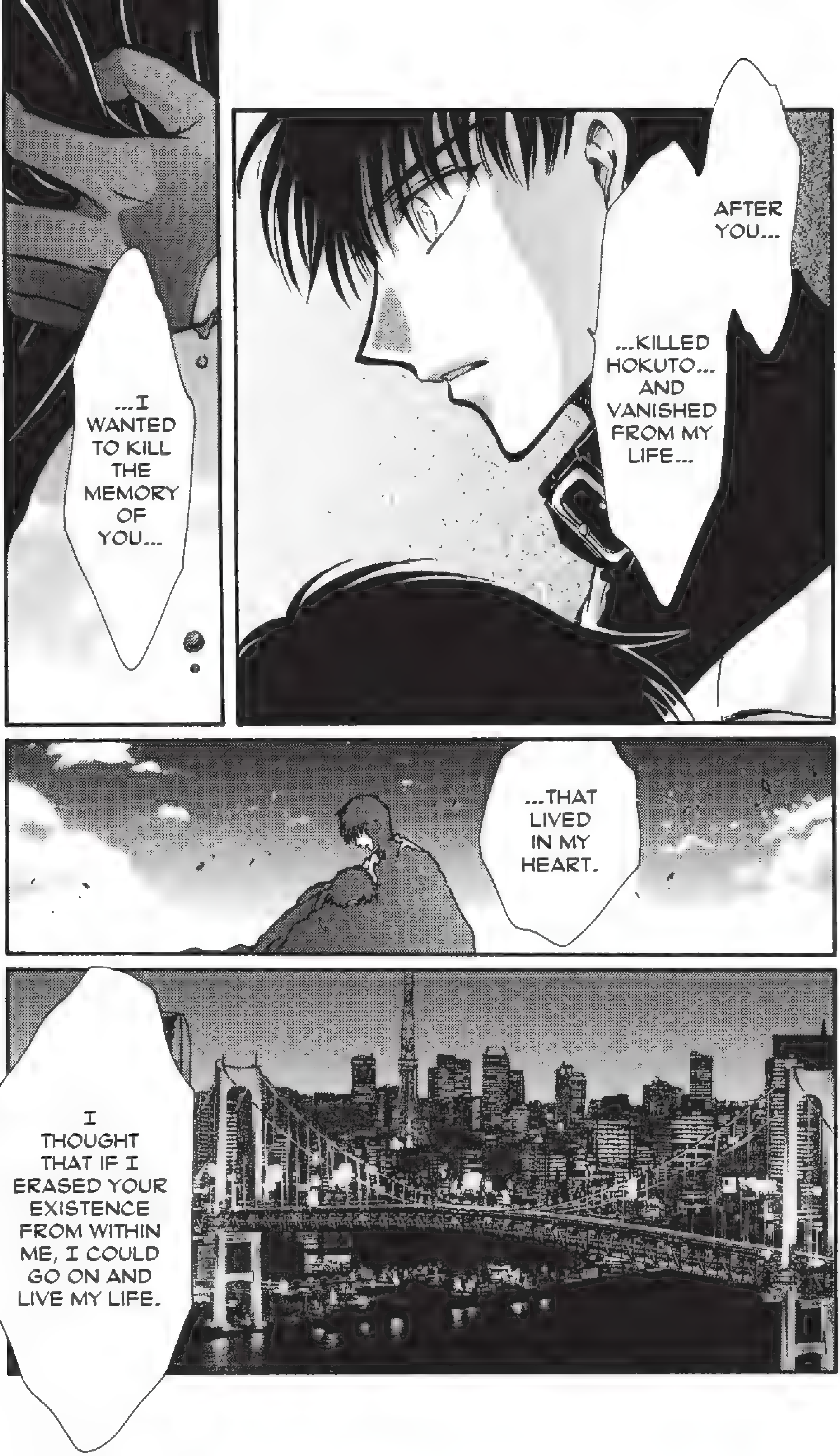

H... HOW... DID...
IT WAS...
...YOUR SISTER.

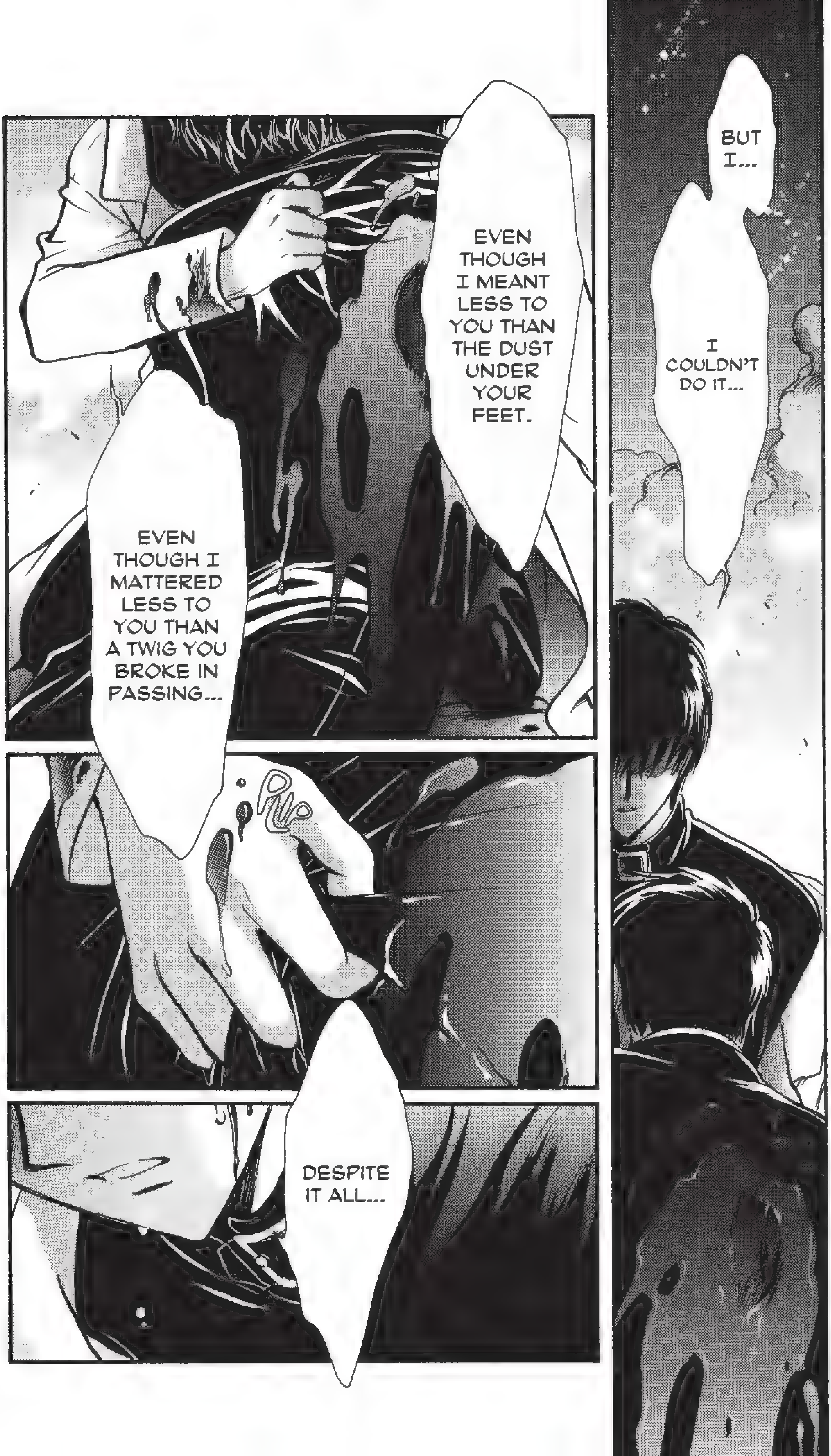

IN THE LAST MOMENT... OF HER LIFE...
...SHE CAST... ONE FINAL SPELL...

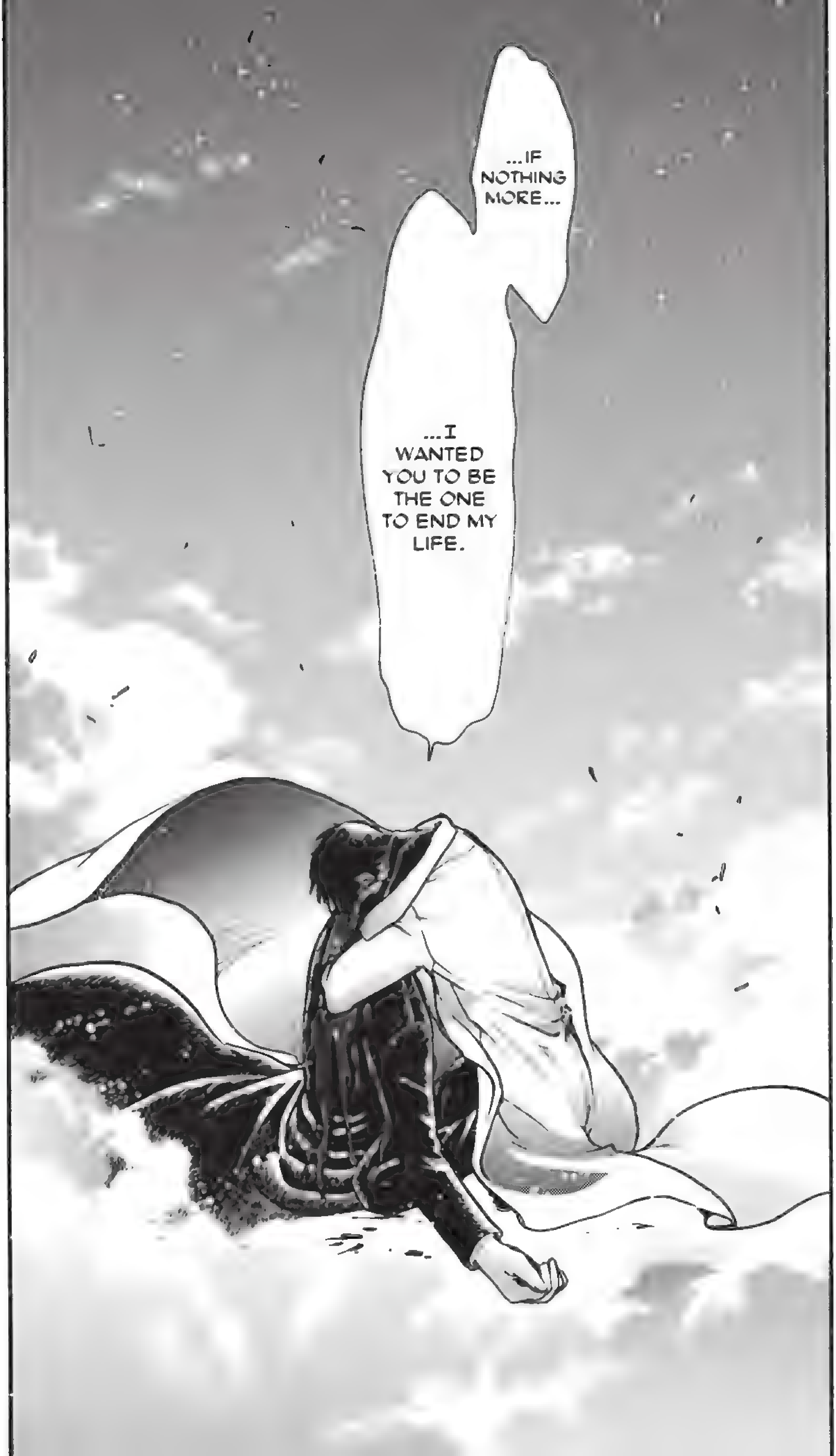

IF I...
...WERE EVER TO TRY AND KILL YOU...
...IN THE SAME WAY THAT I KILLED HER...
...THEN THE SPELL...
SPLK

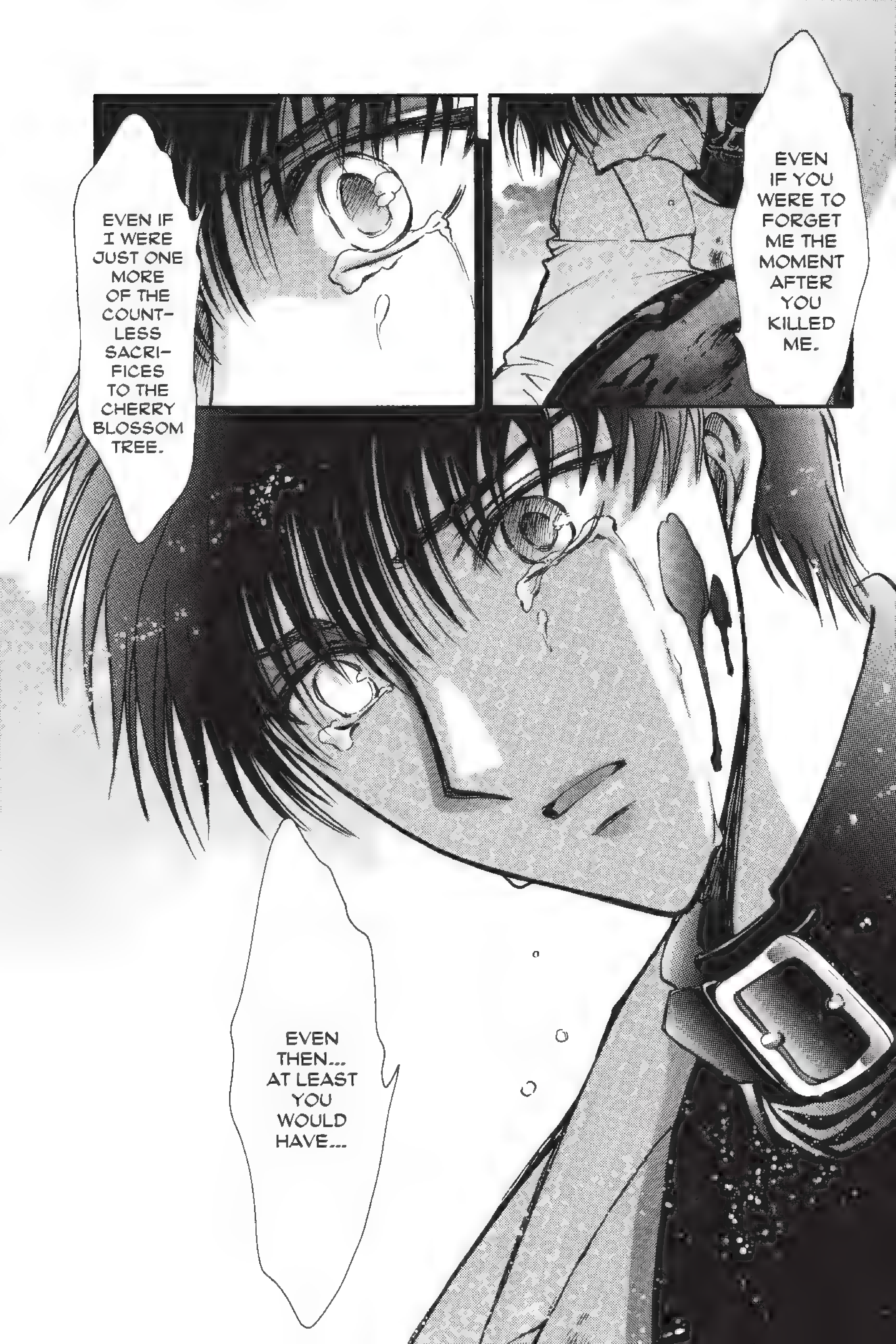

...WOULD TURN THAT STRIKE BACK AGAINST ME...

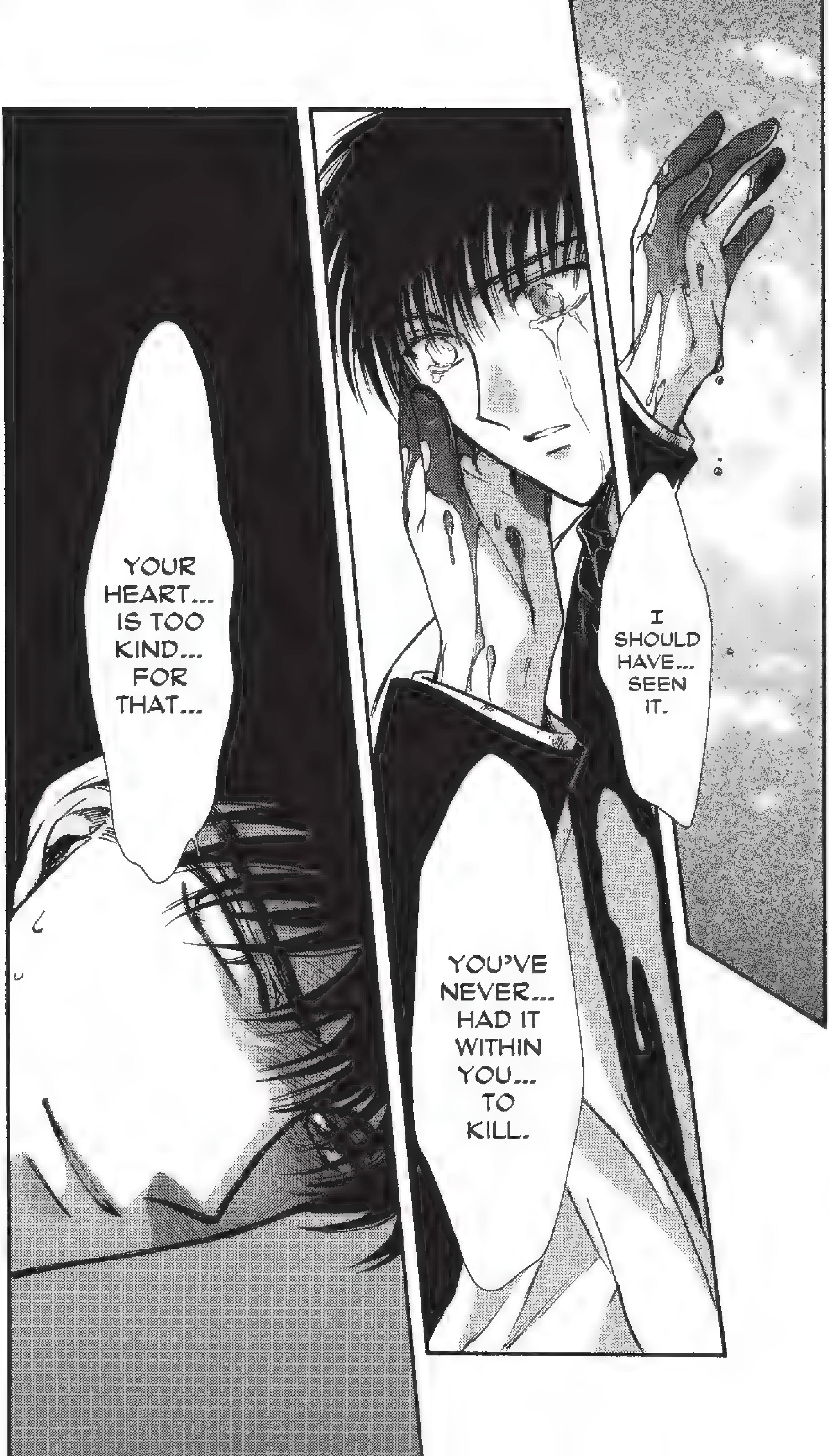

AND HERE WE ARE...
...THE MIRROR IMAGE... OF OUR PAST.
ONLY THEN... IT WAS HOKUTO WHO WAS...
...RUN THROUGH LIKE THIS.
GSSH

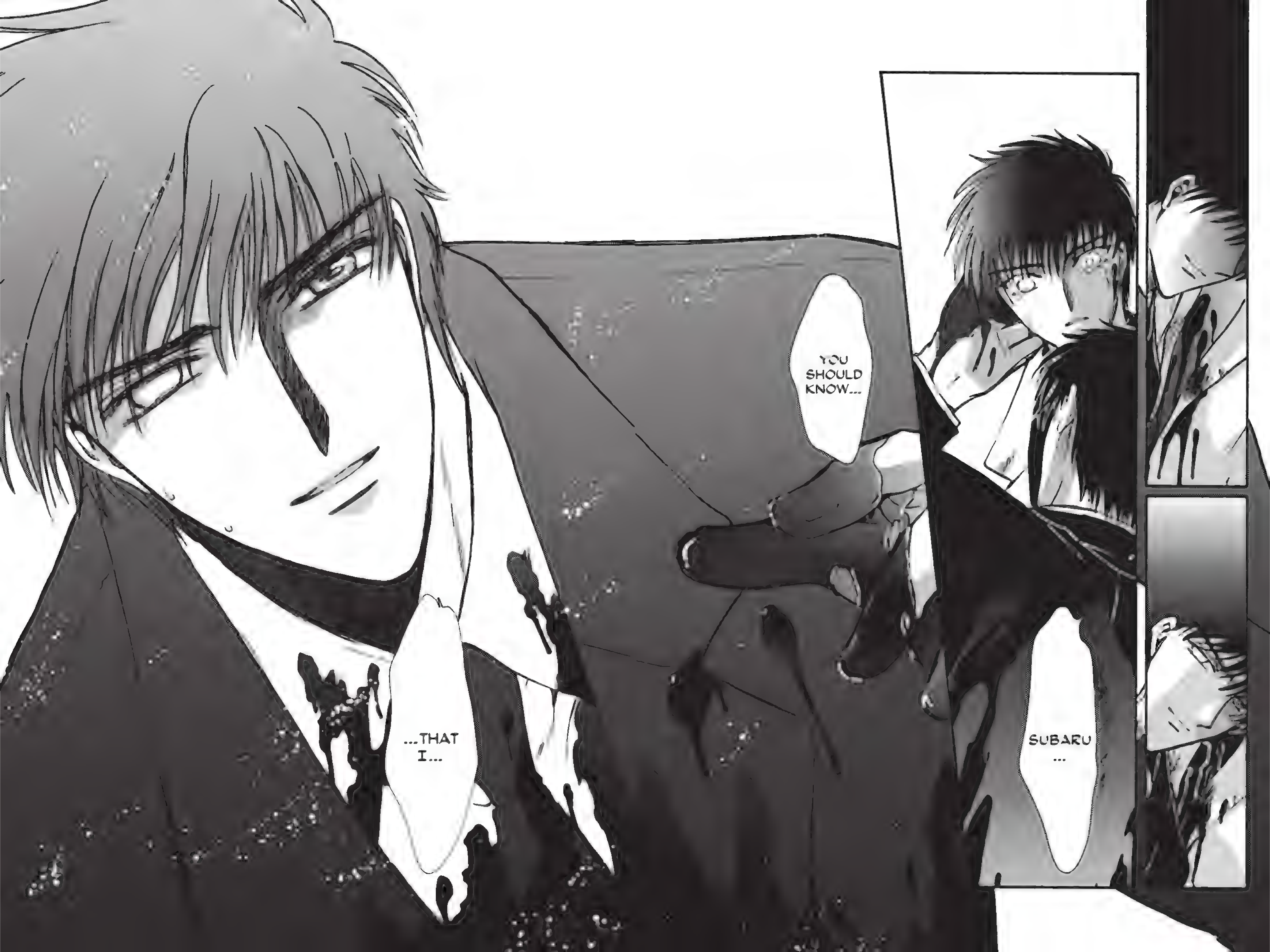

AFTER YOU...
...KILLED HOKUTO... AND VANISHED FROM MY LIFE...
...I WANTED TO KILL THE MEMORY OF YOU...
...THAT LIVED IN MY HEART.
I THOUGHT THAT IF I ERASED YOUR EXISTENCE FROM WITHIN ME, I COULD GO ON AND LIVE MY LIFE.

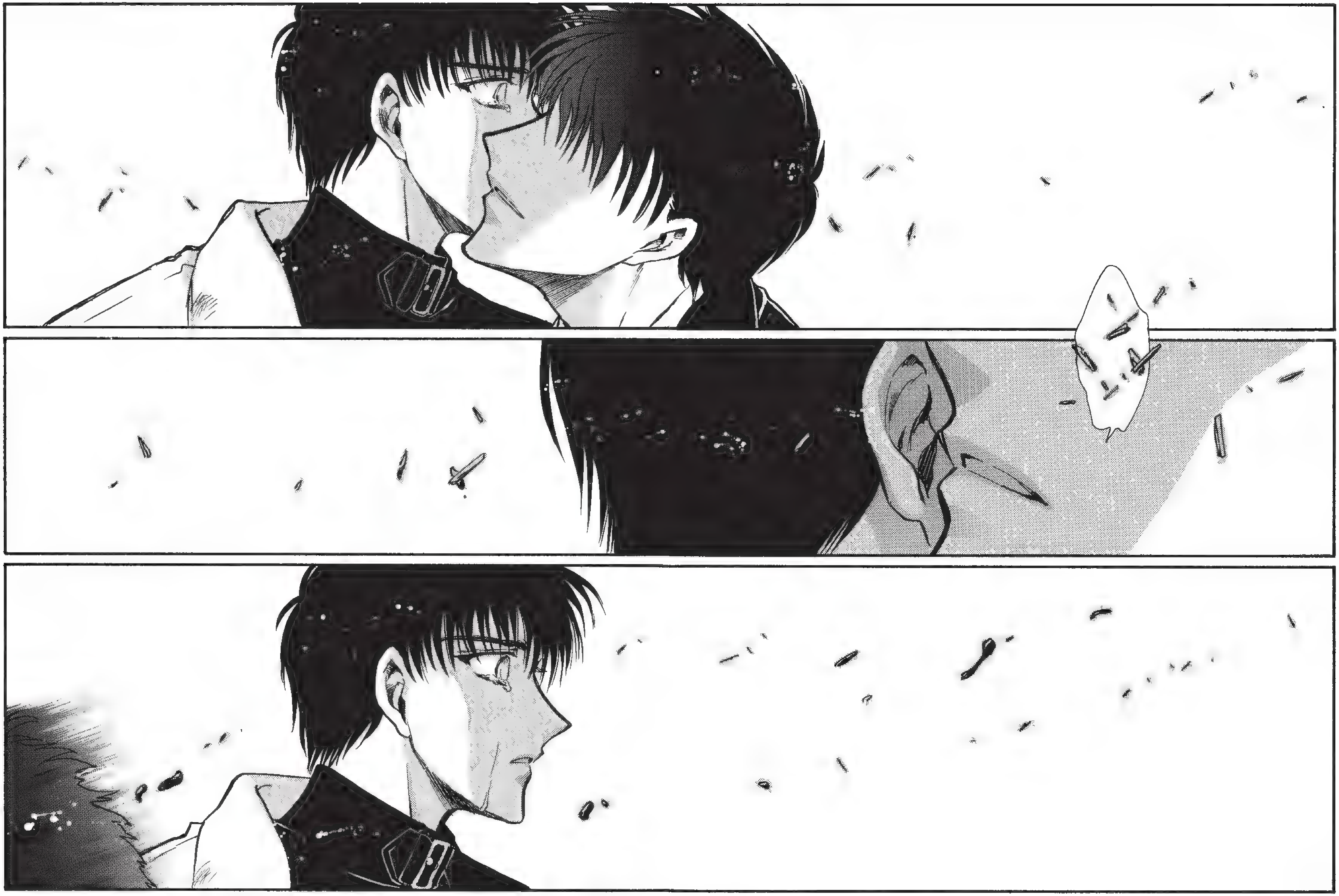

BUT I...
I COULDN'T DO IT...
EVEN THOUGH I MEANT LESS TO YOU THAN THE DUST UNDER YOUR FEET.
EVEN THOUGH I MATTERED LESS TO YOU THAN A TWIG YOU BROKE IN PASSING...
PLIP
DESPITE IT ALL...

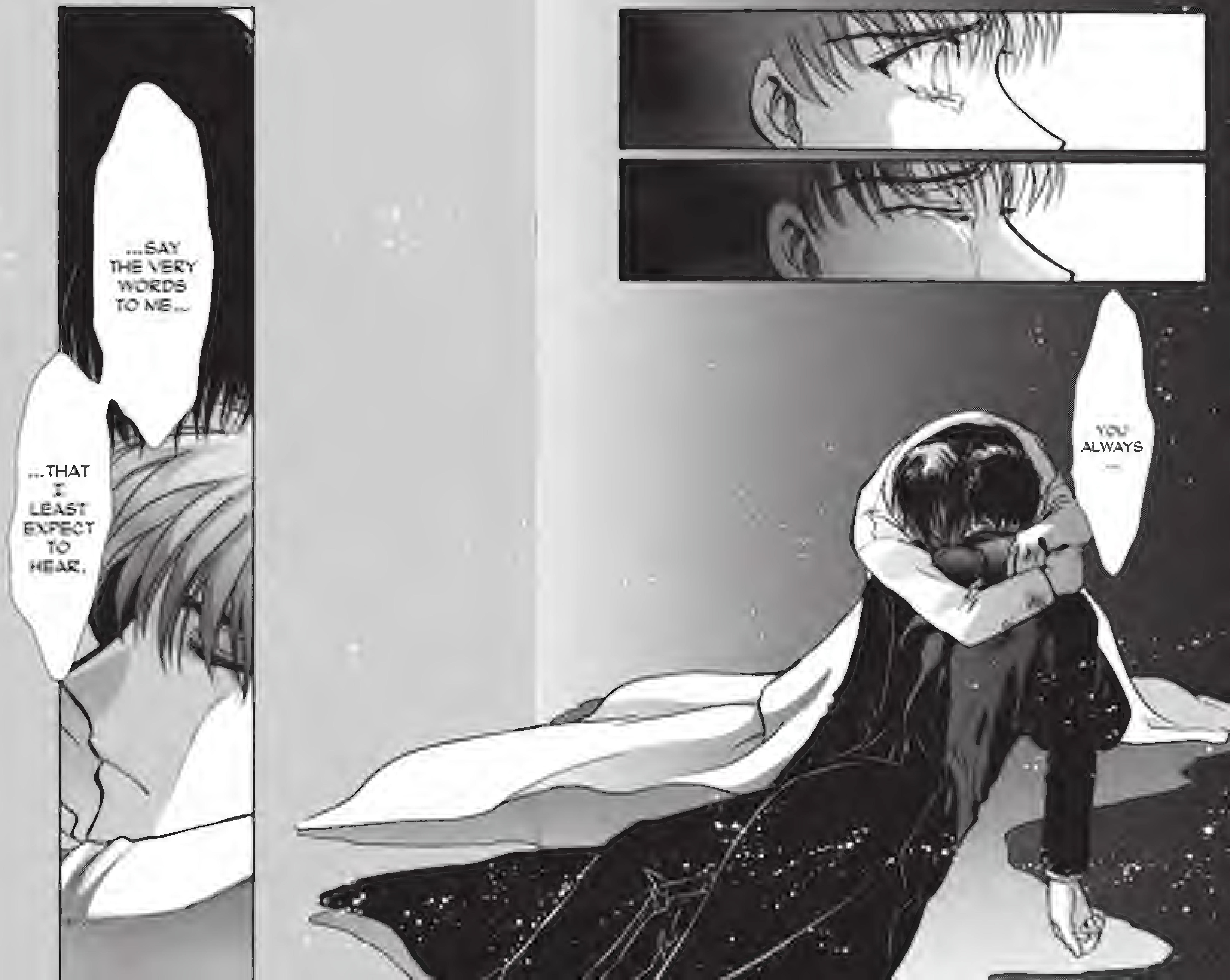

...IF NOTHING MORE...
...I WANTED YOU TO BE THE ONE TO END MY LIFE.

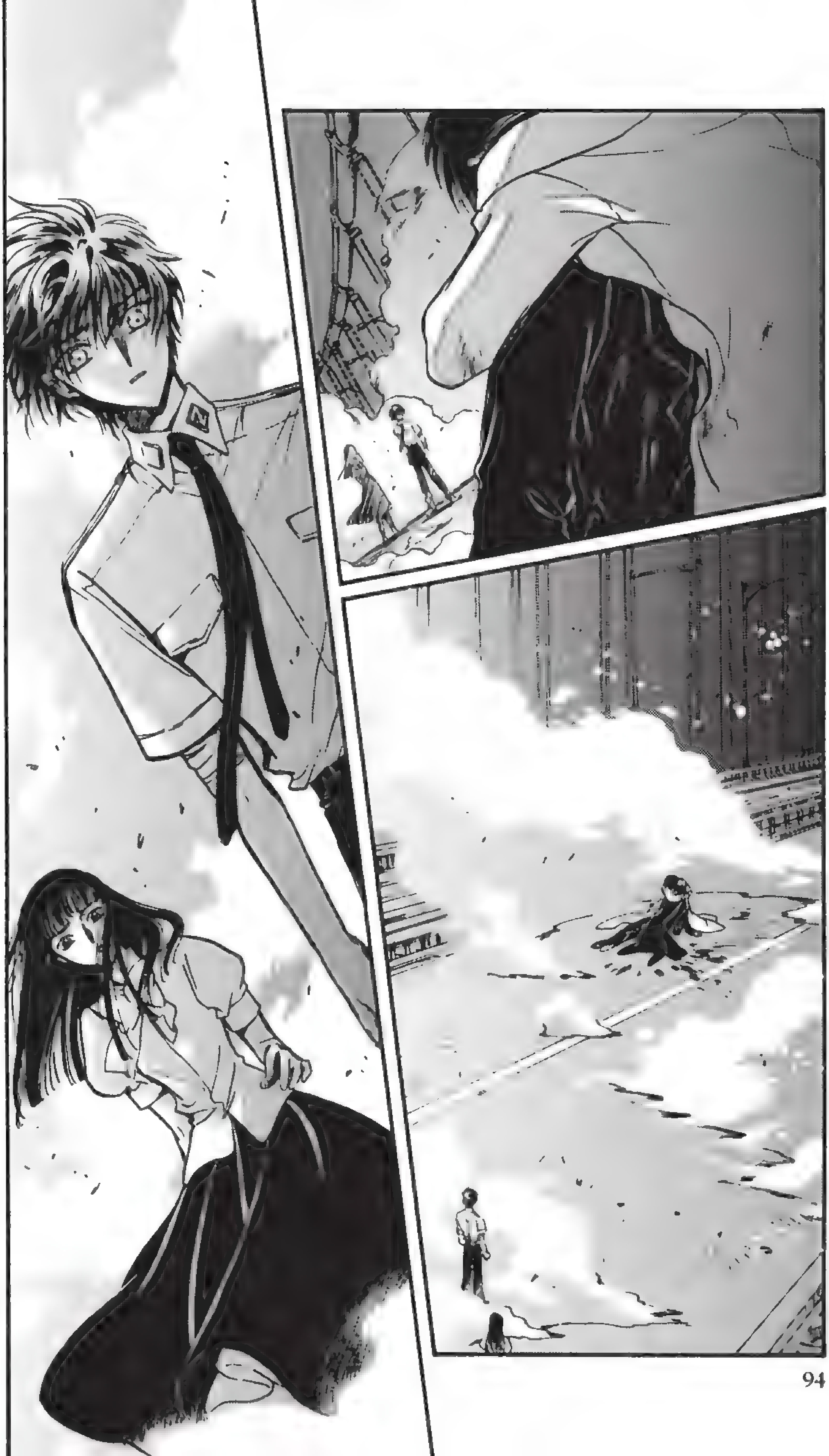

EVEN IF YOU WERE TO FORGET ME THE MOMENT AFTER YOU KILLED ME.
EVEN IF I WERE JUST ONE MORE OF THE COUNTLESS SACRIFICES TO THE CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE.
EVEN THEN... AT LEAST YOU WOULD HAVE...

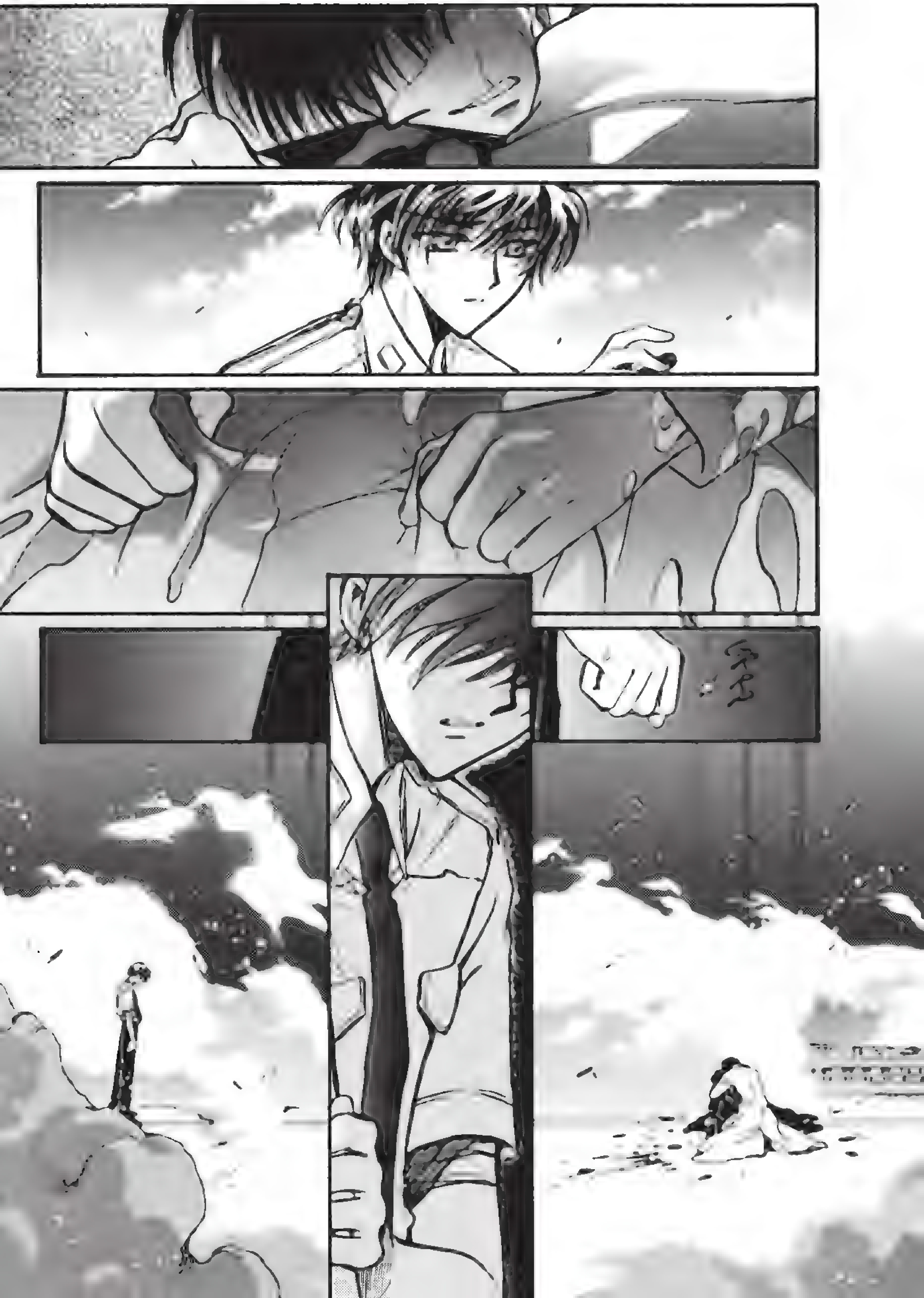

I SHOULD HAVE... SEEN IT.
YOU'VE NEVER... HAD IT WITHIN YOU... TO KILL.
YOUR HEART... IS TOO KIND... FOR THAT...

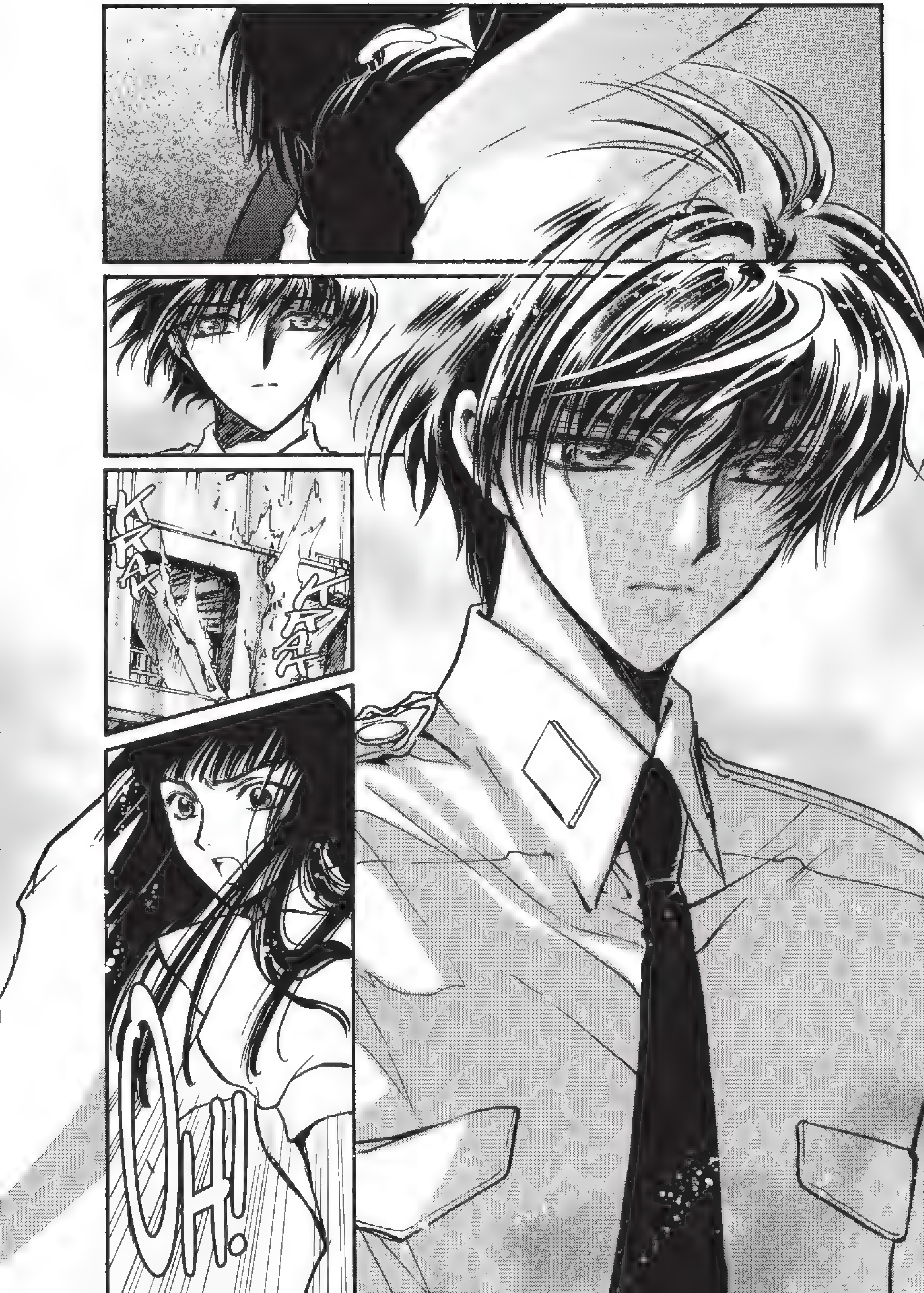

Subaru
...
You should know...
...that I...

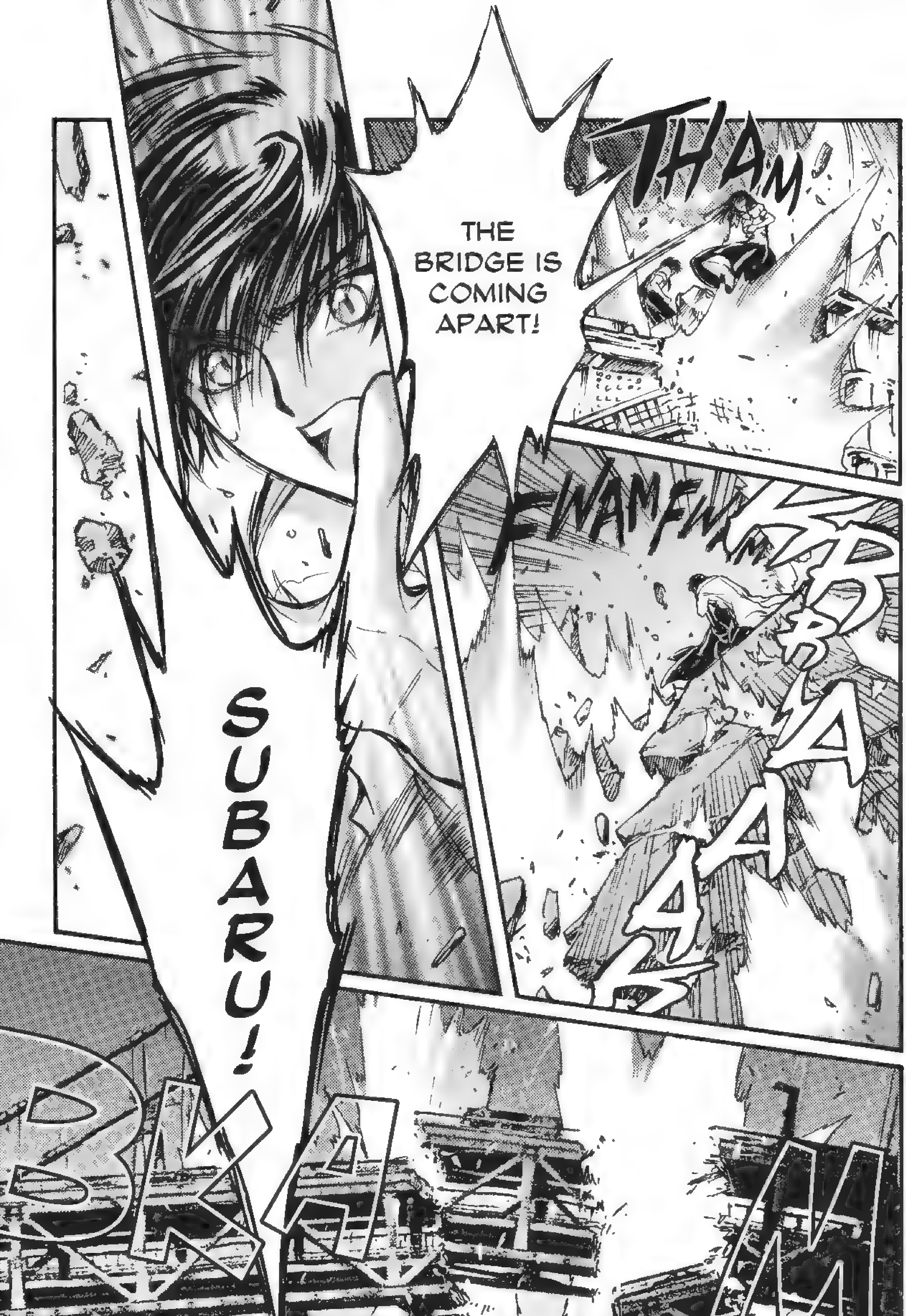


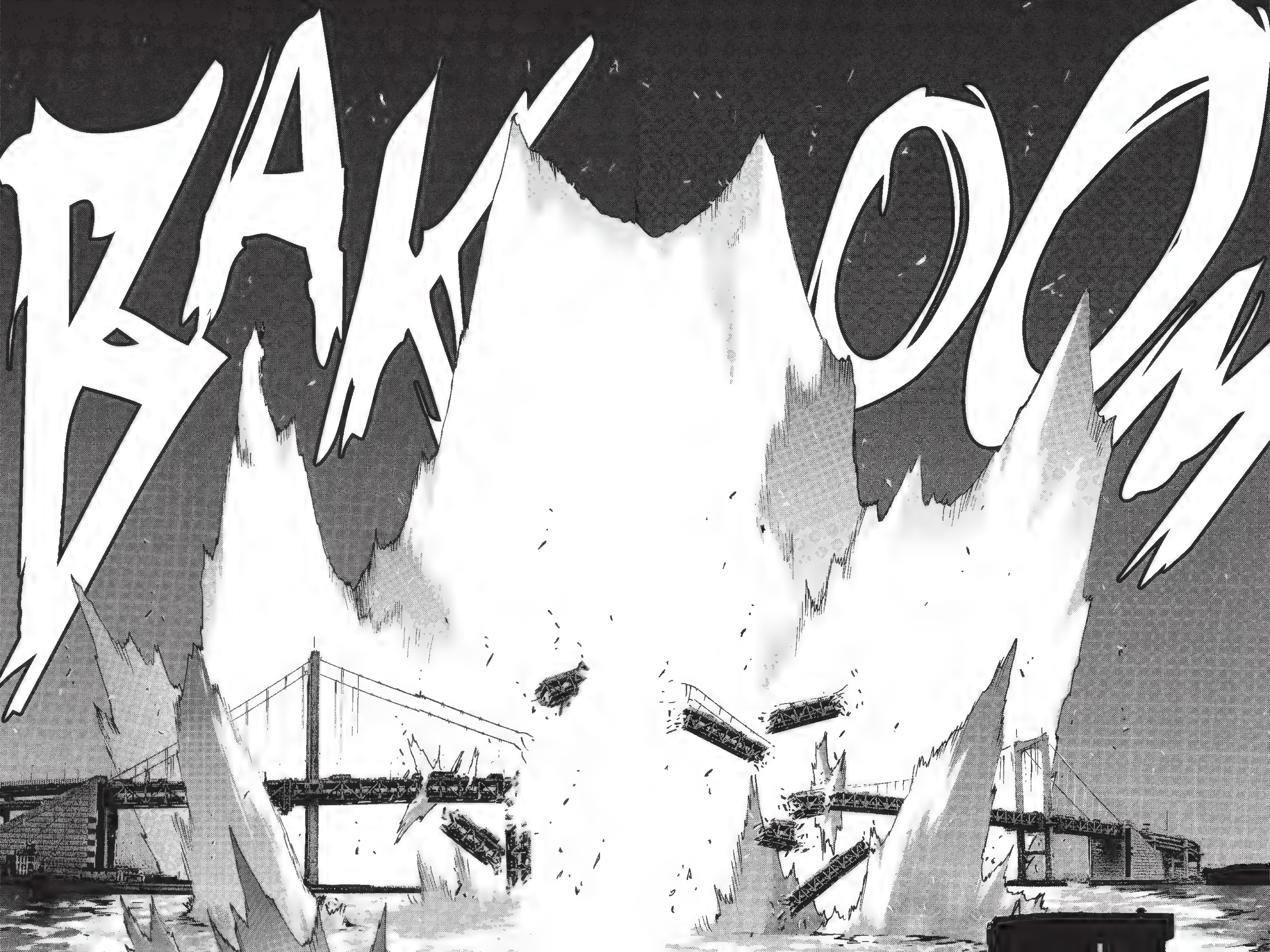

YOU ALWAYS ...
...SAY THE VERY WORDS TO ME...
...THAT I LEAST EXPECT TO HEAR.

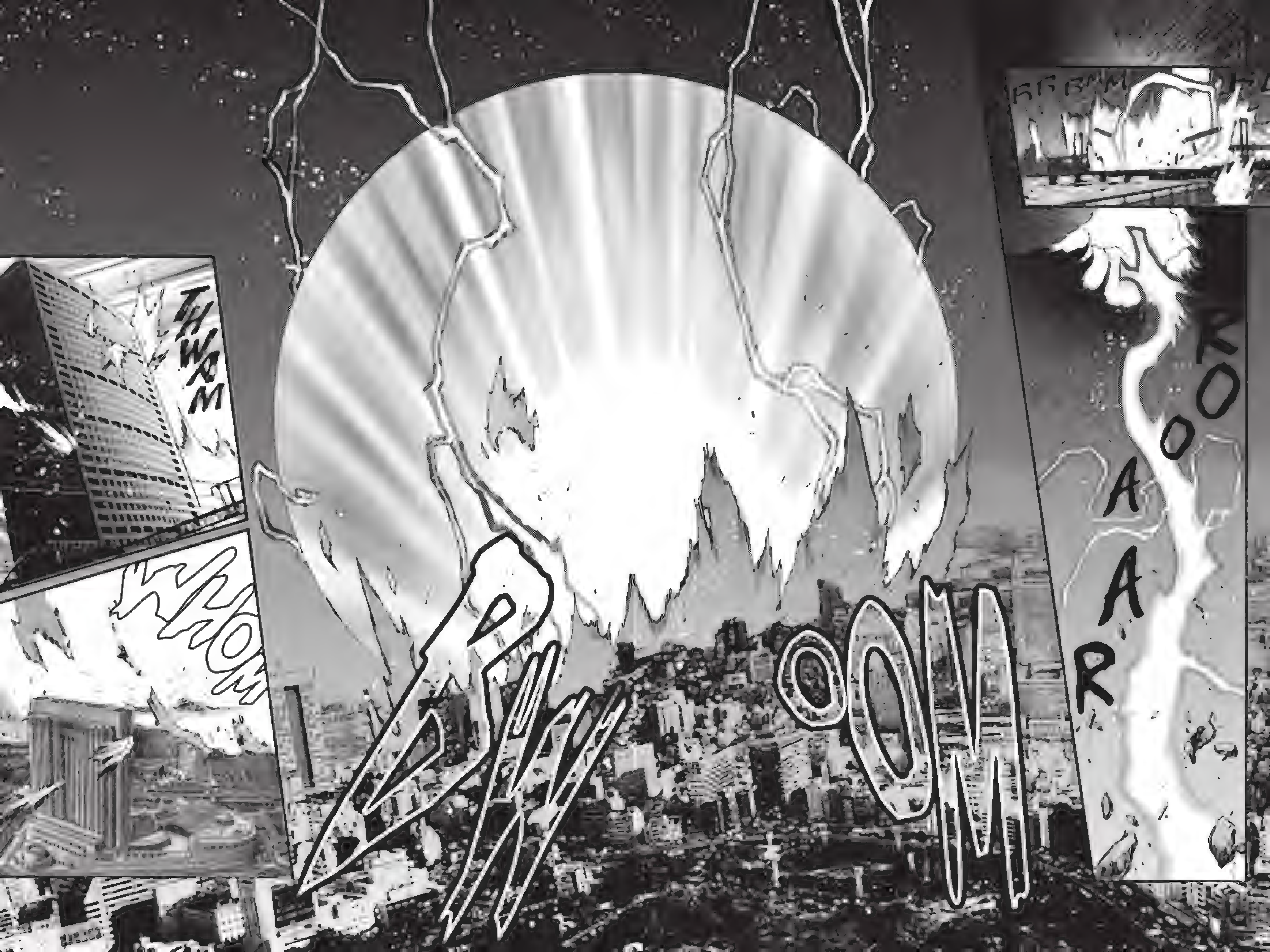


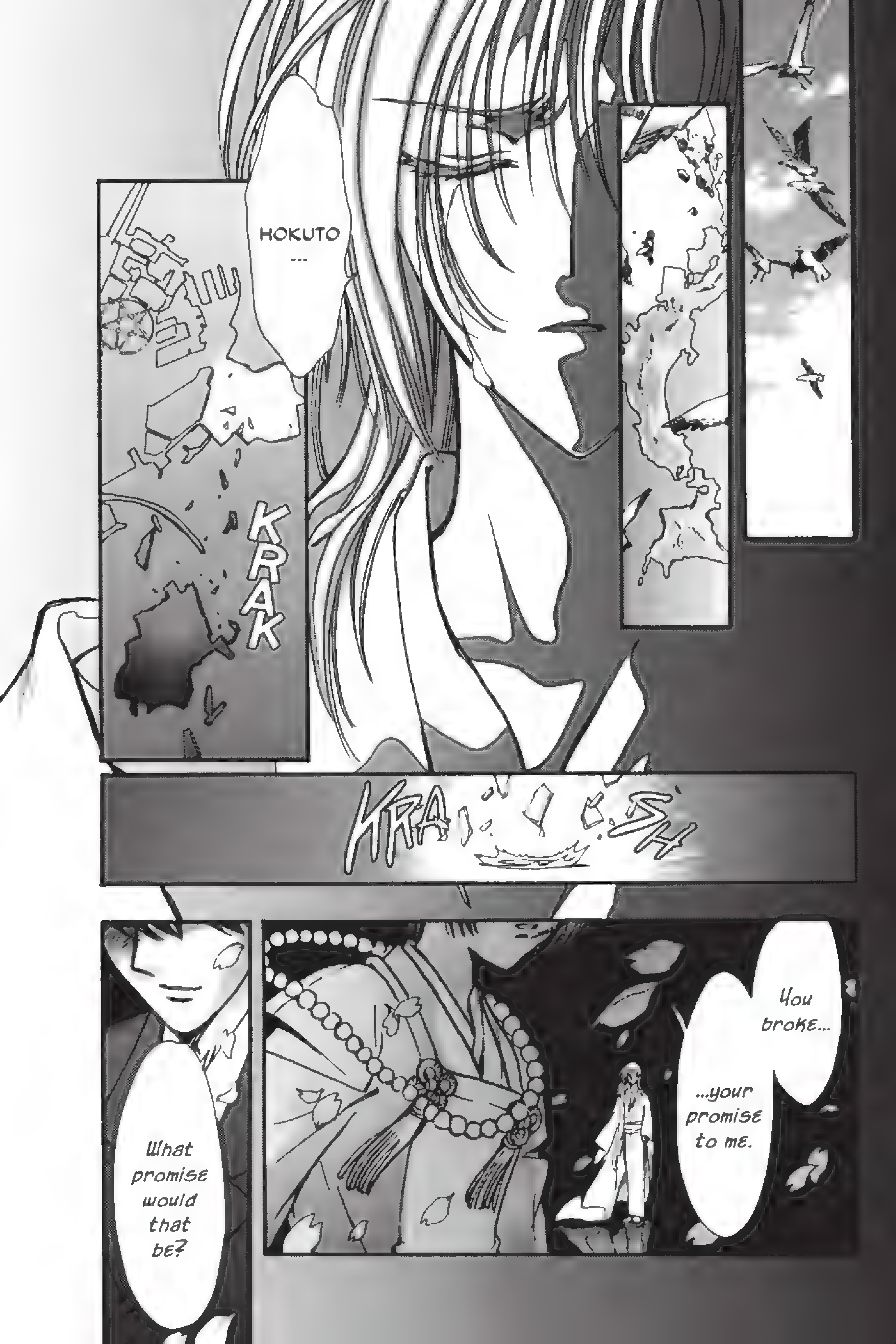

ギュ

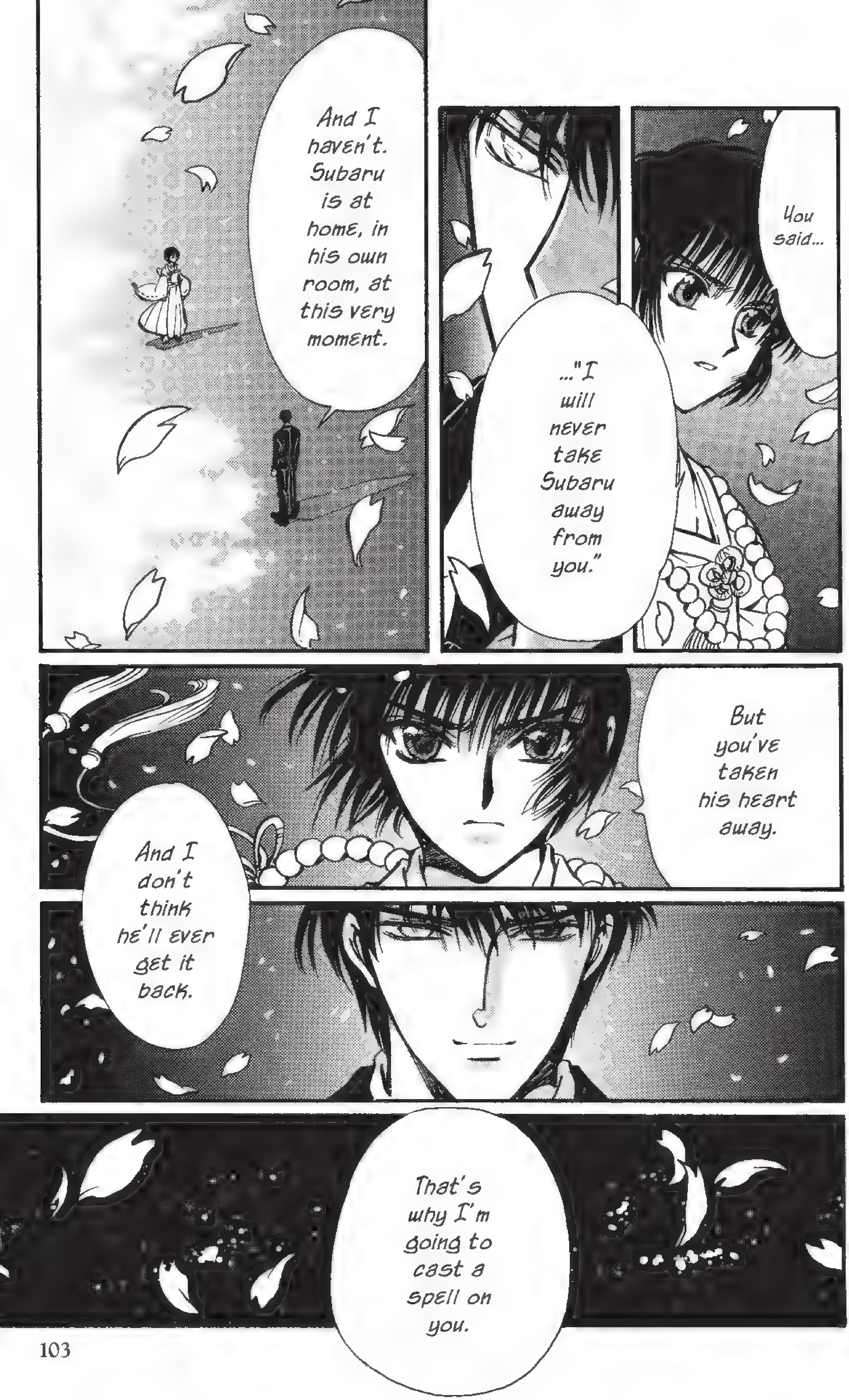

KRAK
KRAK
OH!

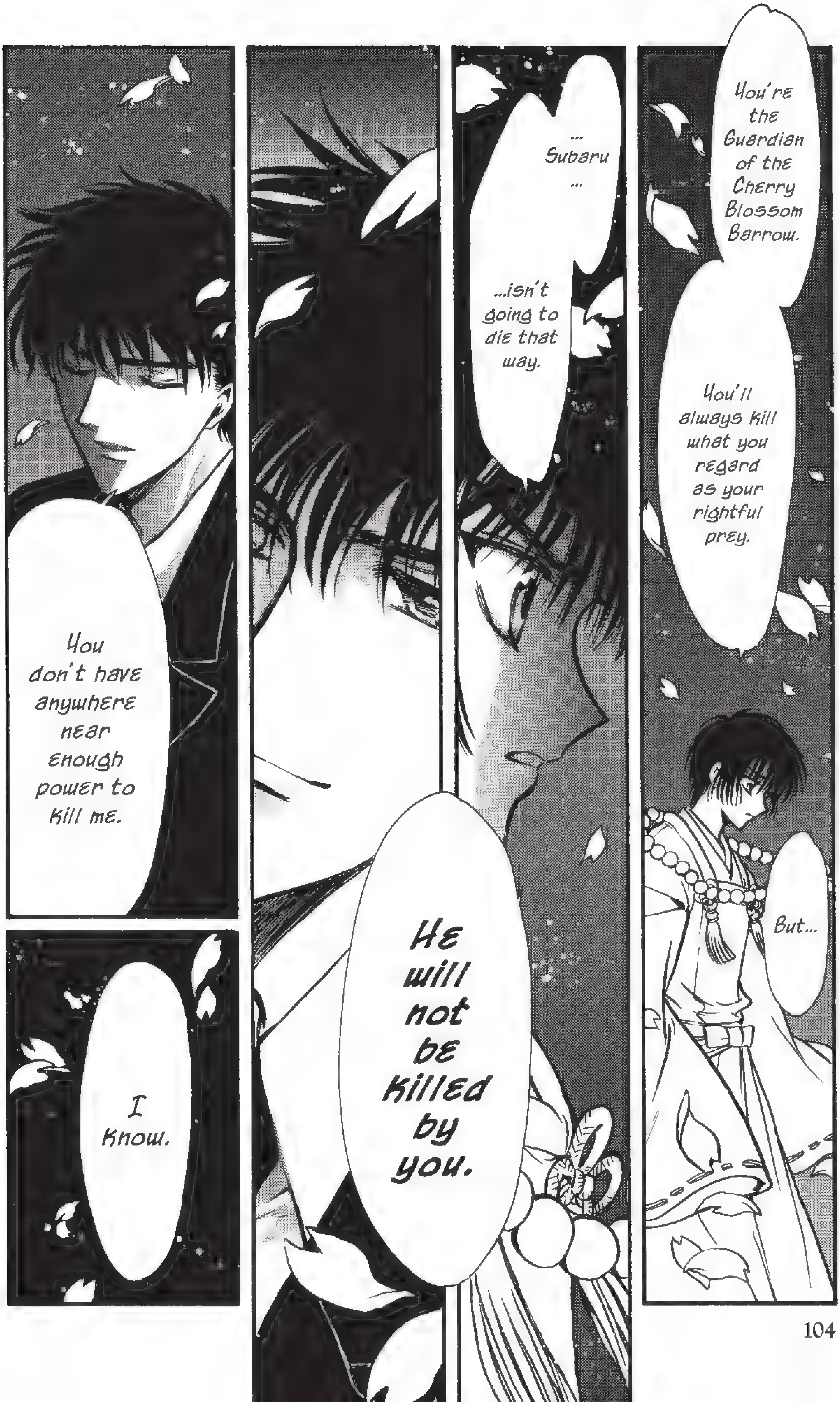

THAM
THE BRIDGE IS COMING APART!
FWAMFWAM
KRBRAAAS
SUBARU!
BKAMM

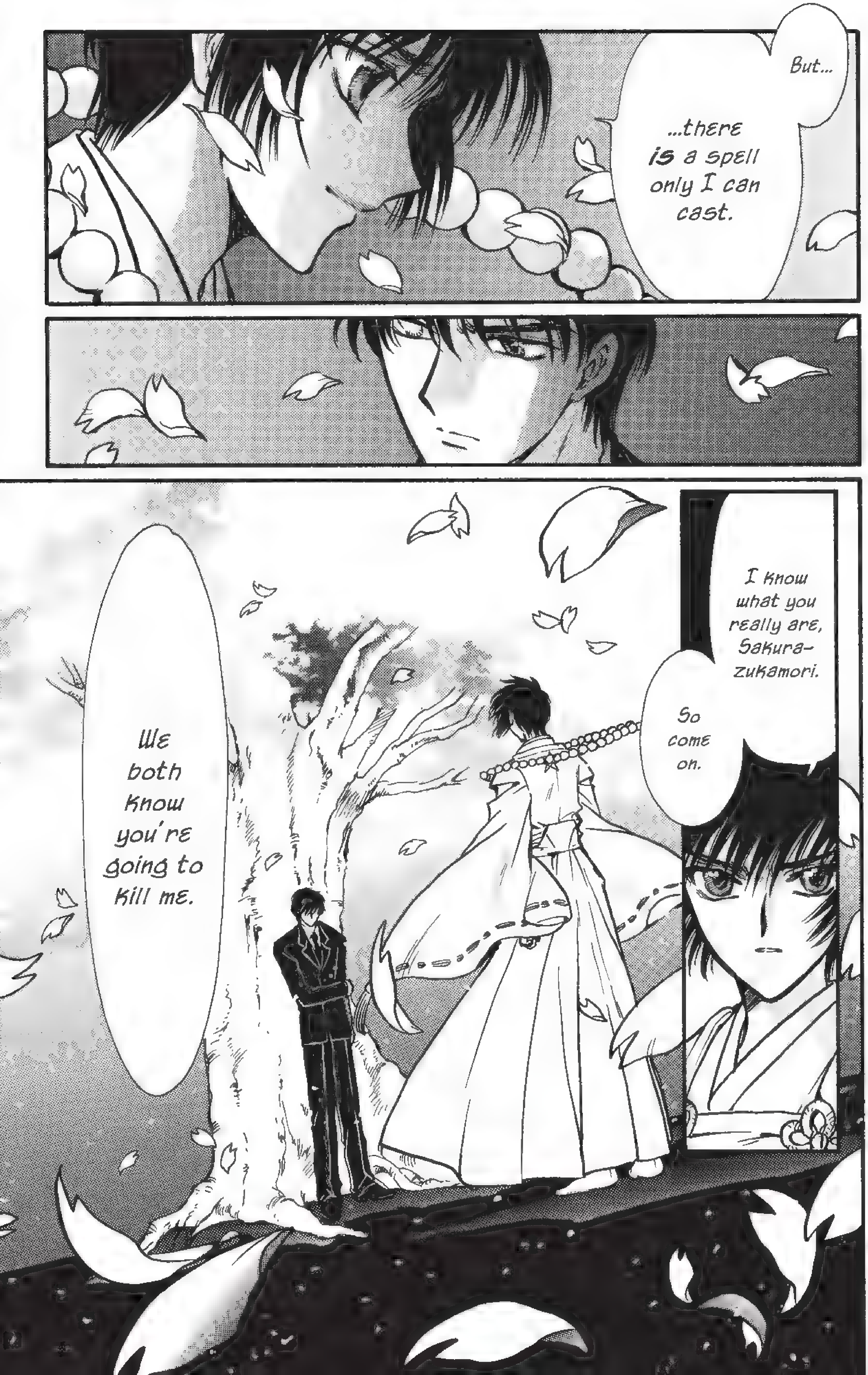

BAKOO

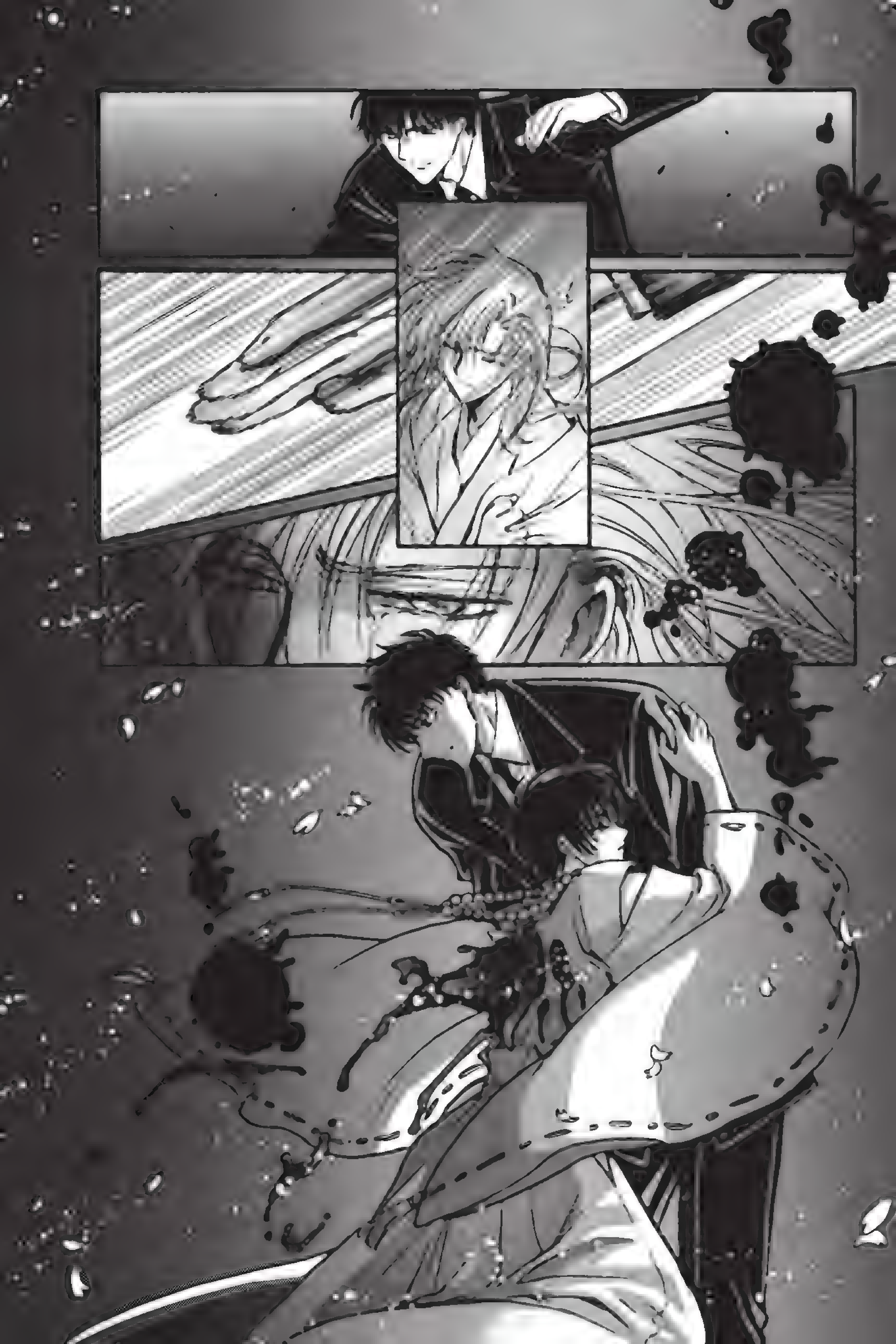

THWAM
WHOOM
BRAAOOM
KOOAAR

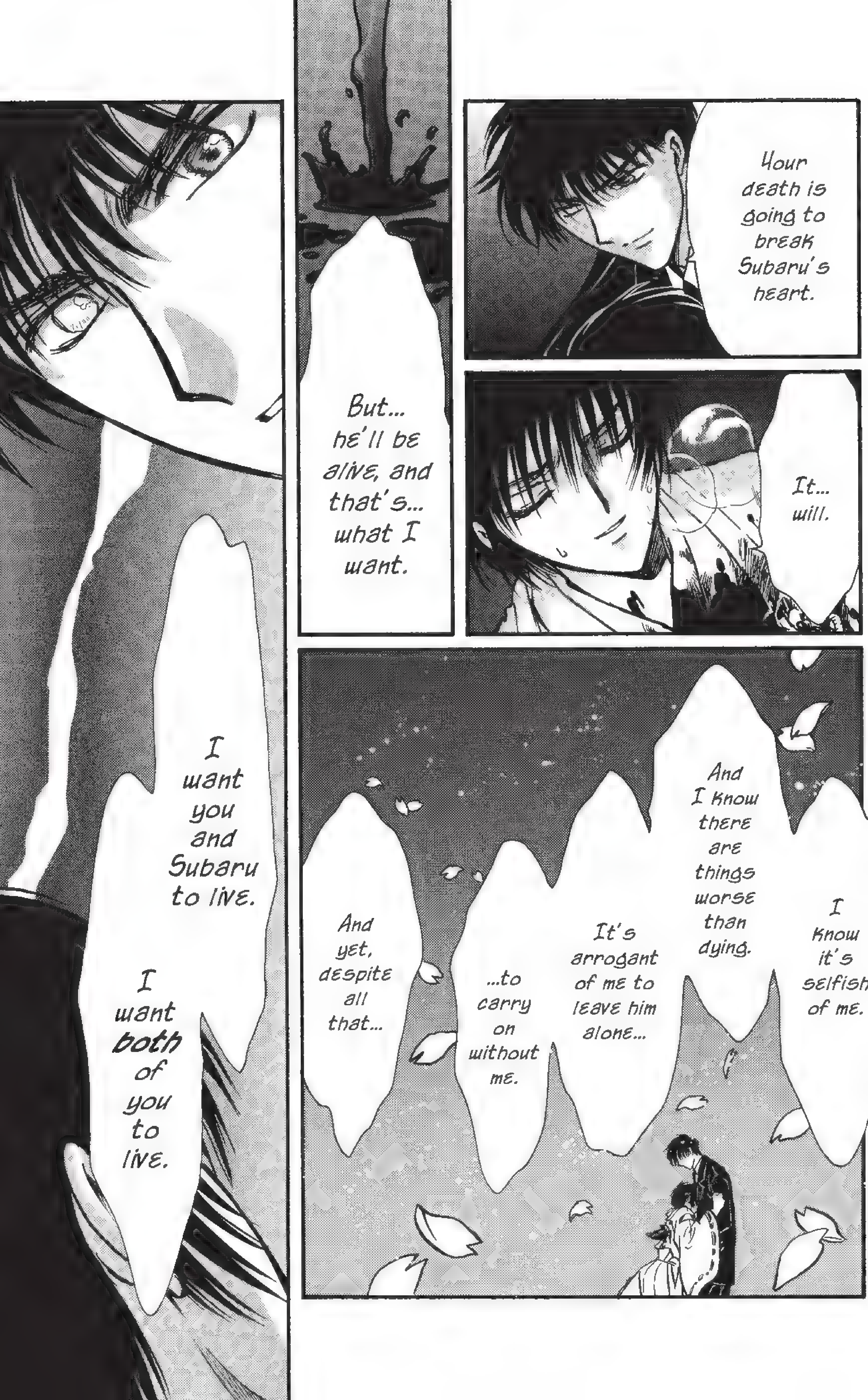

HOKUTO
...
KRAK
KRASH
You broke...
...your promise to me.
What promise would that be?

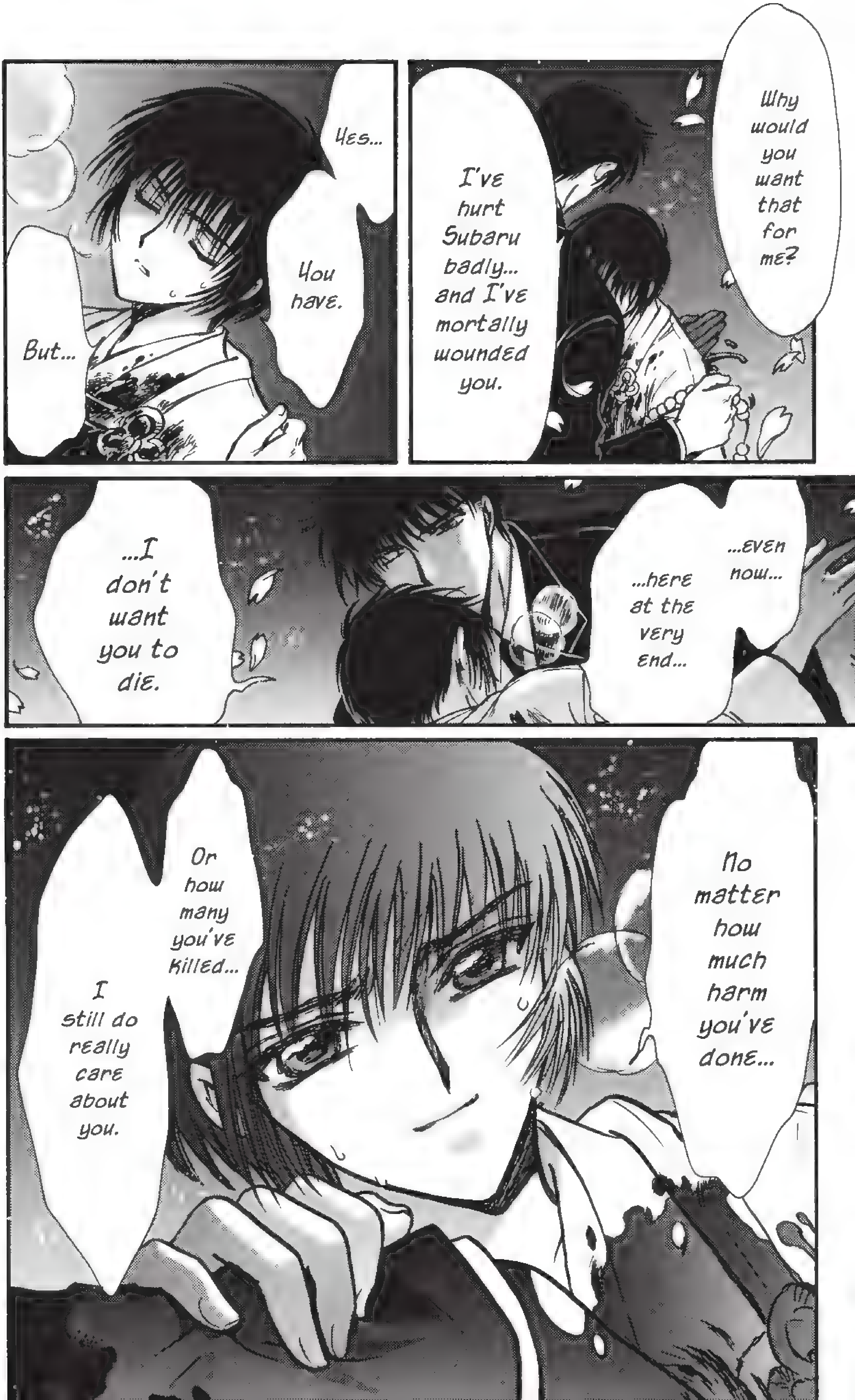

You said...
..."I will never take Subaru away from you."
And I haven't. Subaru is at home, in his own room, at this very moment.
But you've taken his heart away.
And I don't think he'll ever get it back.
That's why I'm going to cast a spell on you.

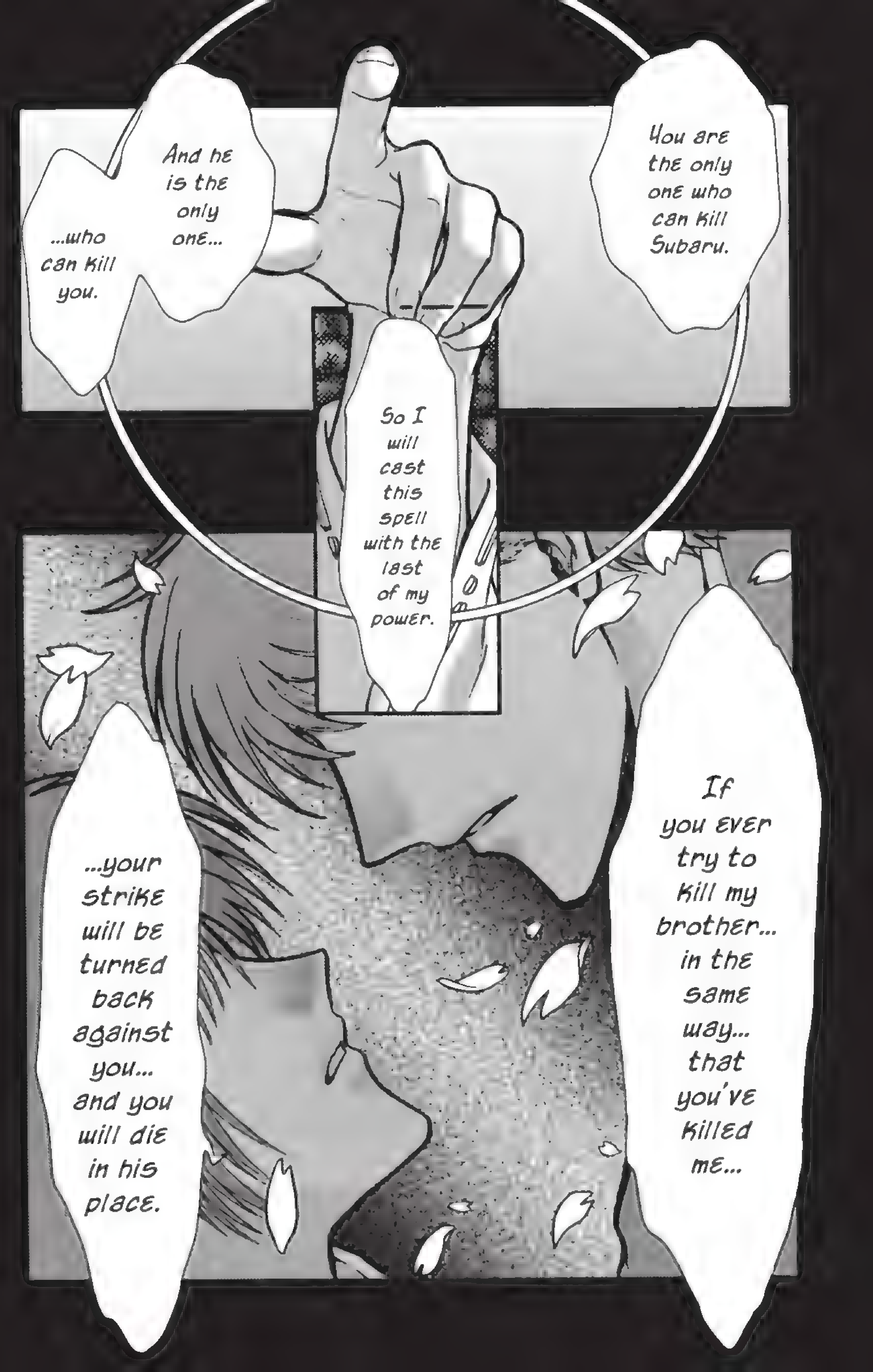

You're the Guardian of the Cherry Blossom Barrow.
You'll always kill what you regard as your rightful prey.
But...
...Subaru...
...isn't going to die that way.
He will not be killed by you.
You don't have anywhere near enough power to kill me.
I know.

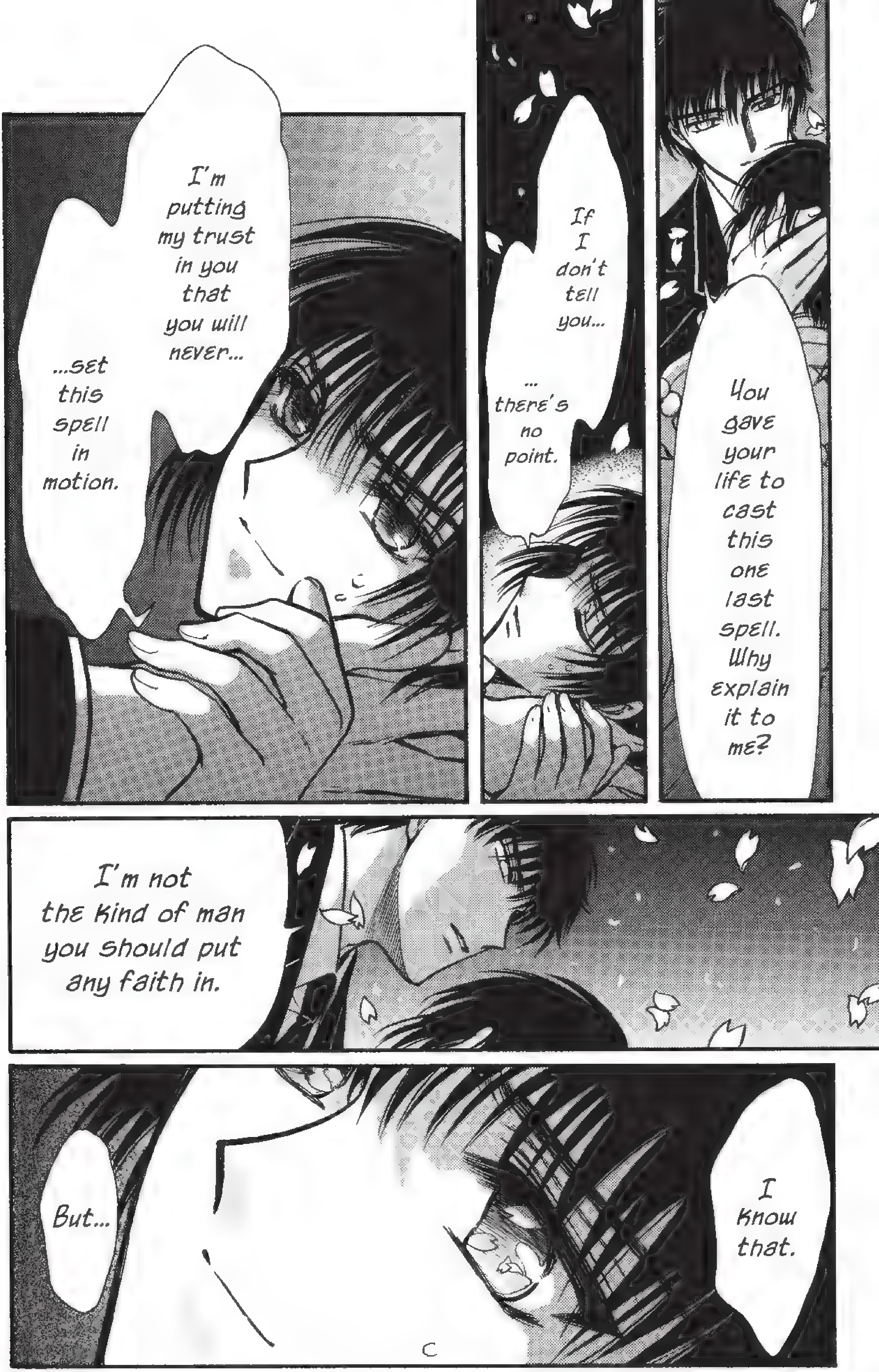

But...
...there *is* a spell only I can cast.
I know what you really are, Sakura-zukamori.
So come on.
We both know you're going to kill me.

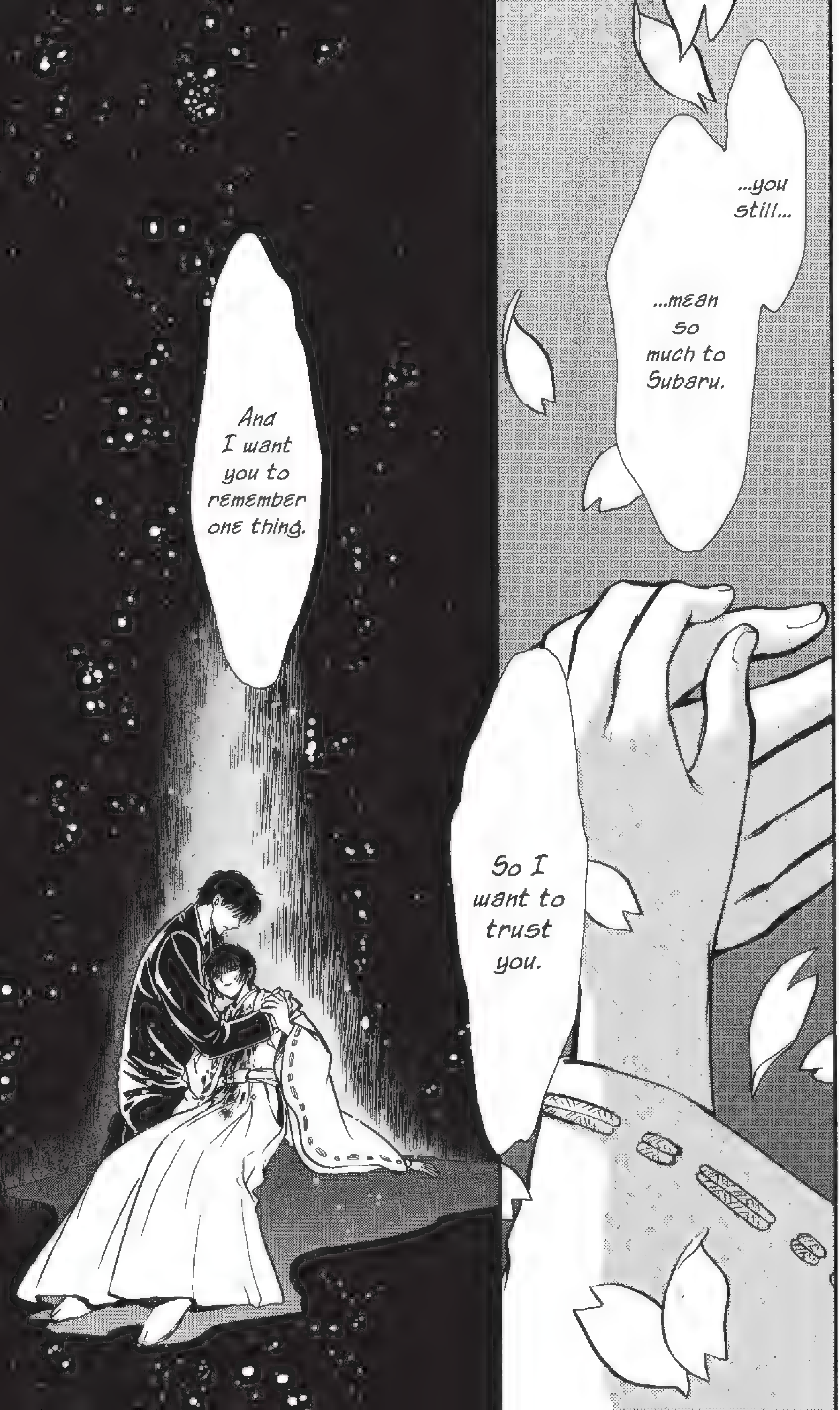


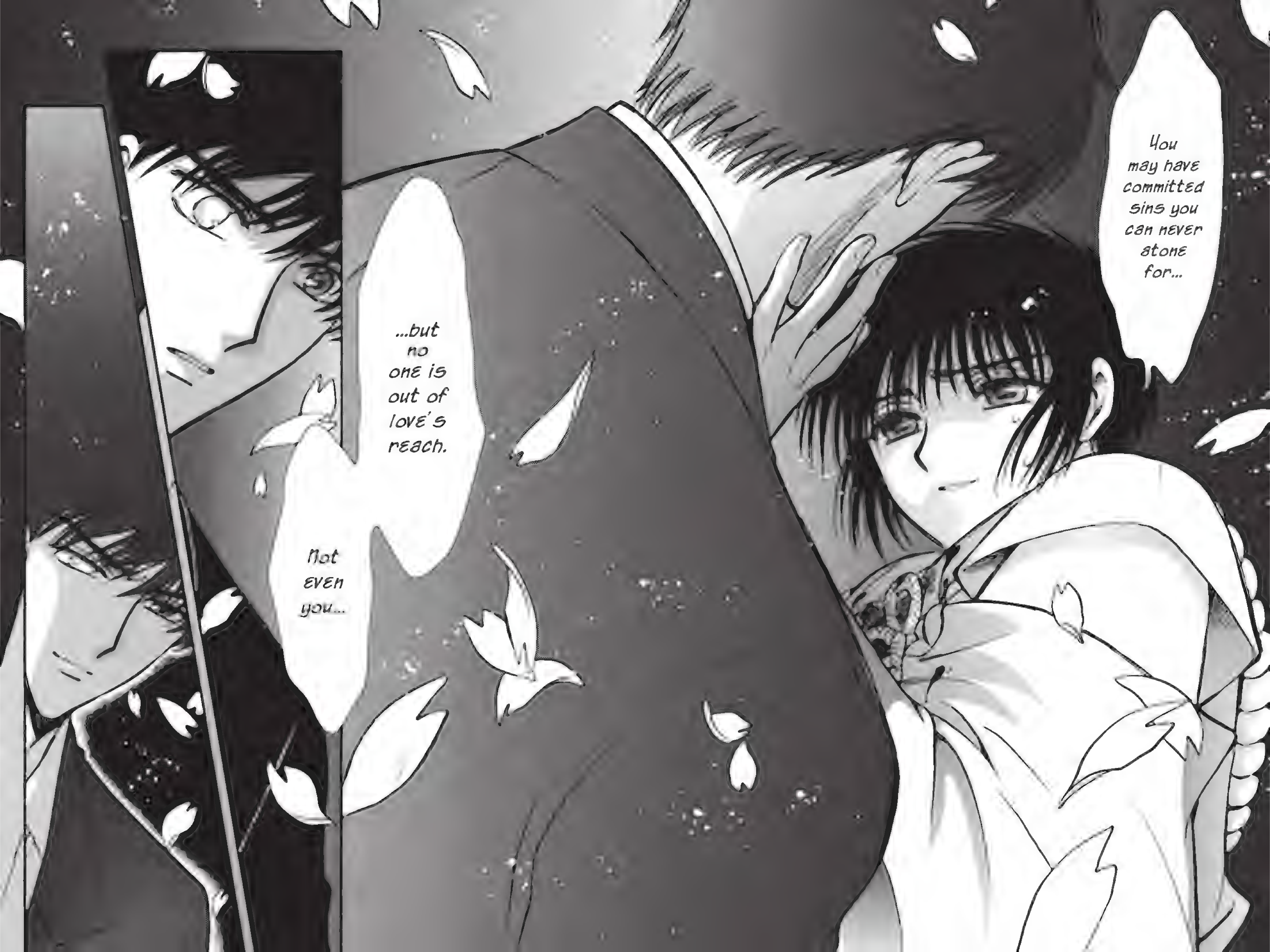

Your death is going to break Subaru's heart.
It... will.
But... he'll be alive, and that's... what I want.
I know it's selfish of me.
And I know there are things worse than dying.
It's arrogant of me to leave him alone...
...to carry on without me.
And yet, despite all that...
I want you and Subaru to live.
I want **both** of you to live.

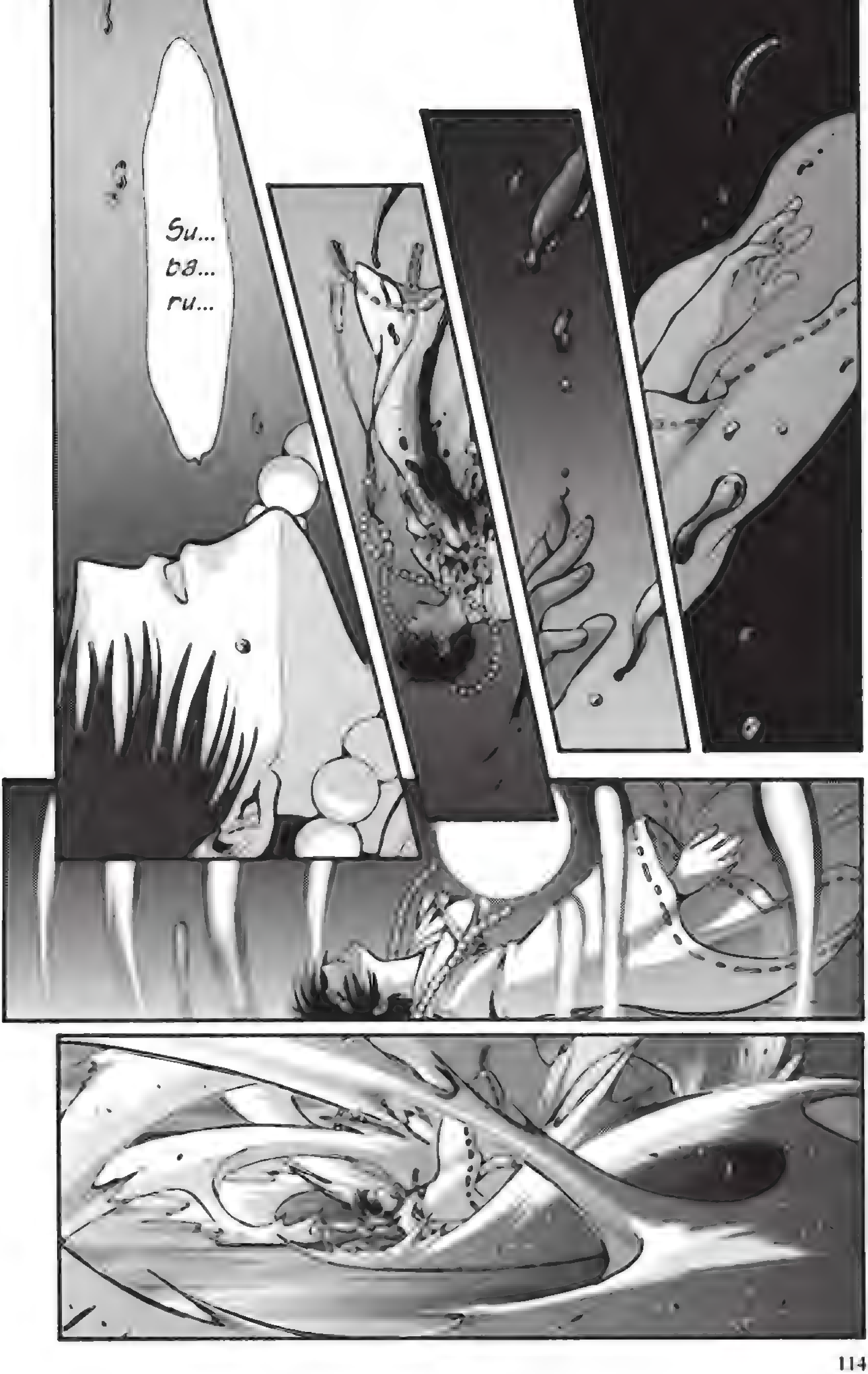

Why would you want that for me?
I've hurt Subaru badly... and I've mortally wounded you.
Yes...
You have.
But...
...even now...
...here at the very end...
...I don't want you to die.
No matter how much harm you've done...
Or how many you've killed...
I still do really care about you.

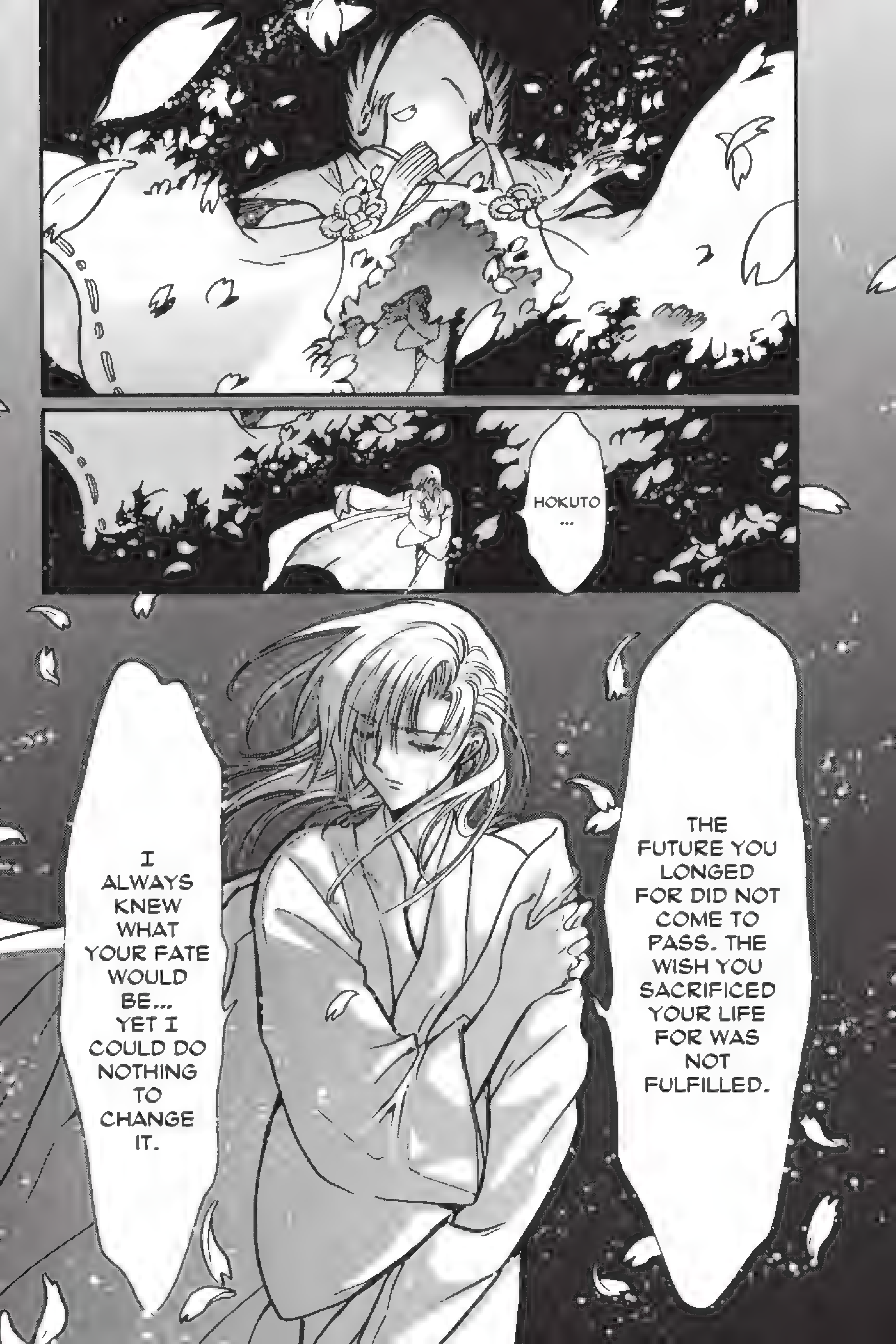

You are the only one who can kill Subaru.
And he is the only one...
...who can kill you.
So I will cast this spell with the last of my power.
If you ever try to kill my brother... in the same way... that you've killed me...
...your strike will be turned back against you... and you will die in his place.

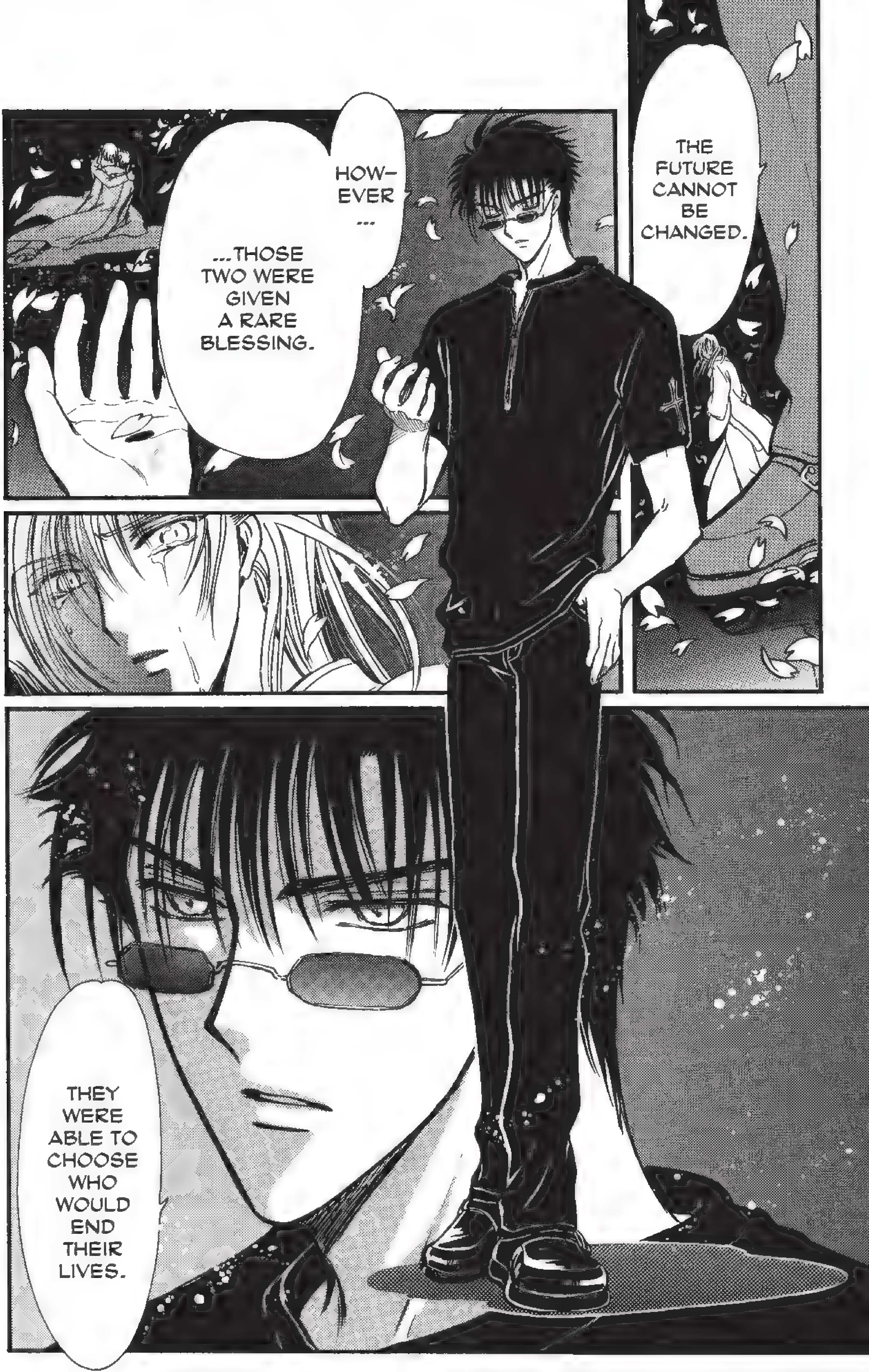

You gave your life to cast this one last spell. Why explain it to me?
If I don't tell you...
...there's no point.
I'm putting my trust in you that you will never...
...set this spell in motion.
I'm not the kind of man you should put any faith in.
I know that.
But...

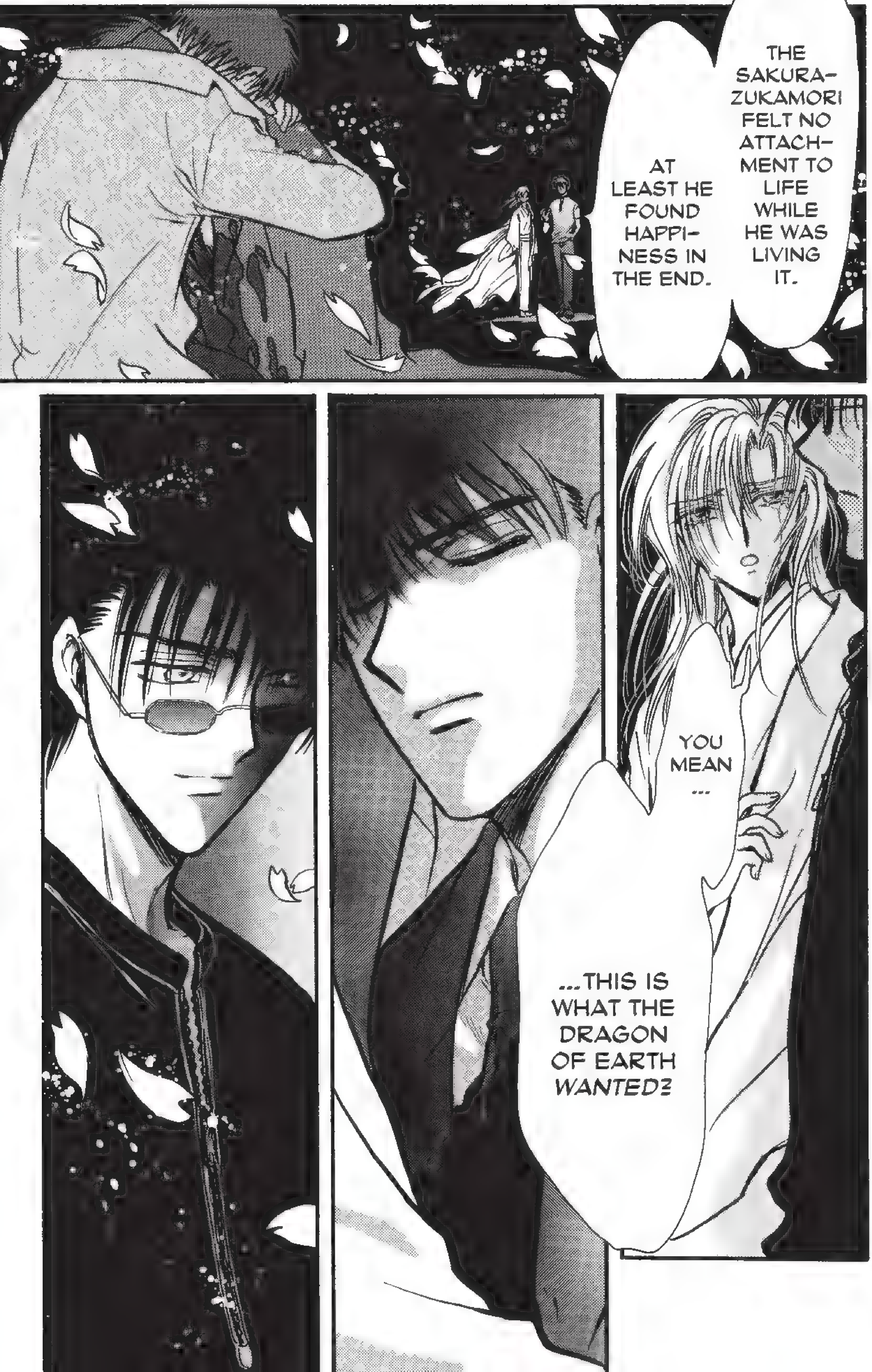

...you still...
...mean so much to Subaru.
So I want to trust you.
And I want you to remember one thing.

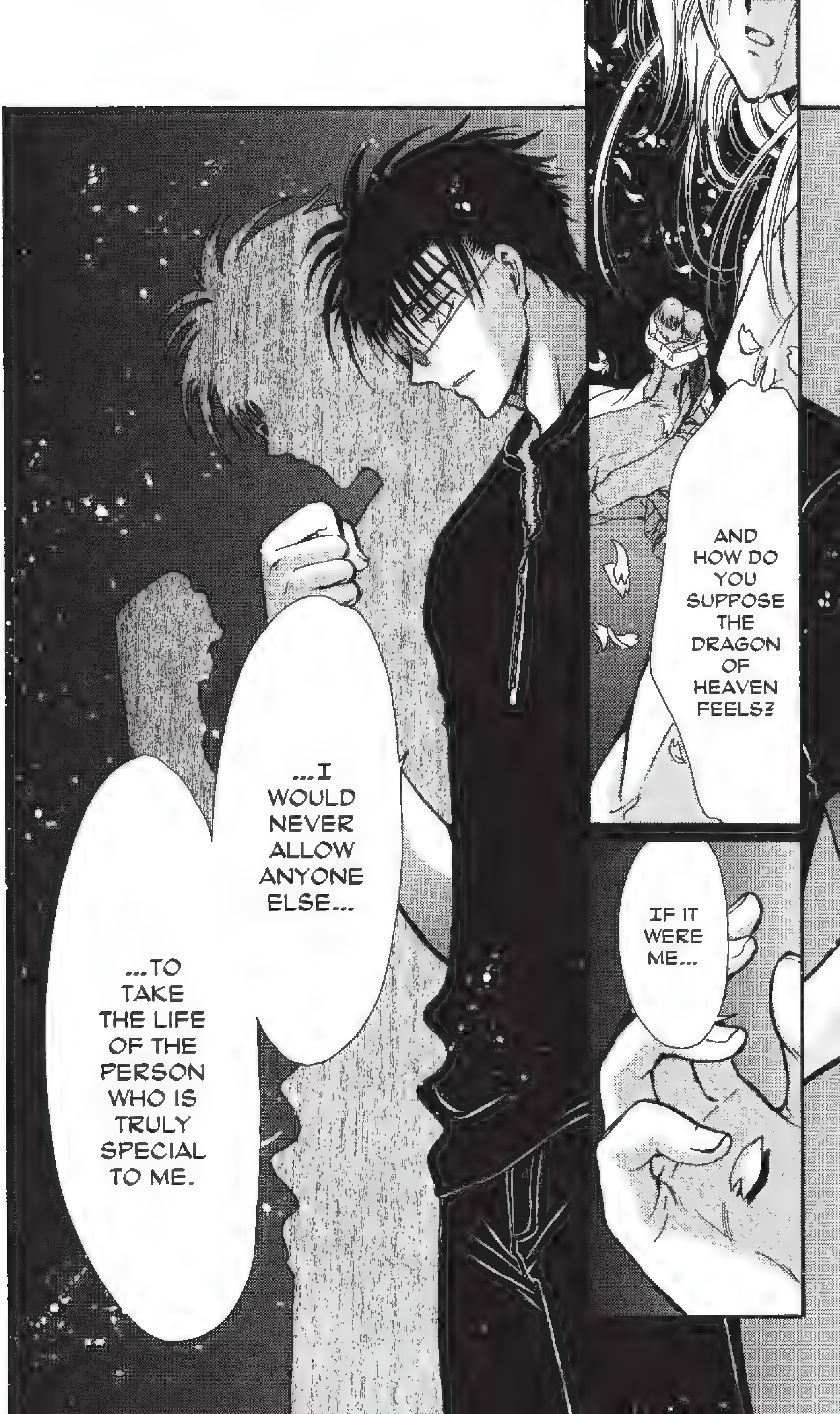

You may have committed sins you can never atone for...
...but no one is out of love's reach.
Not even you...

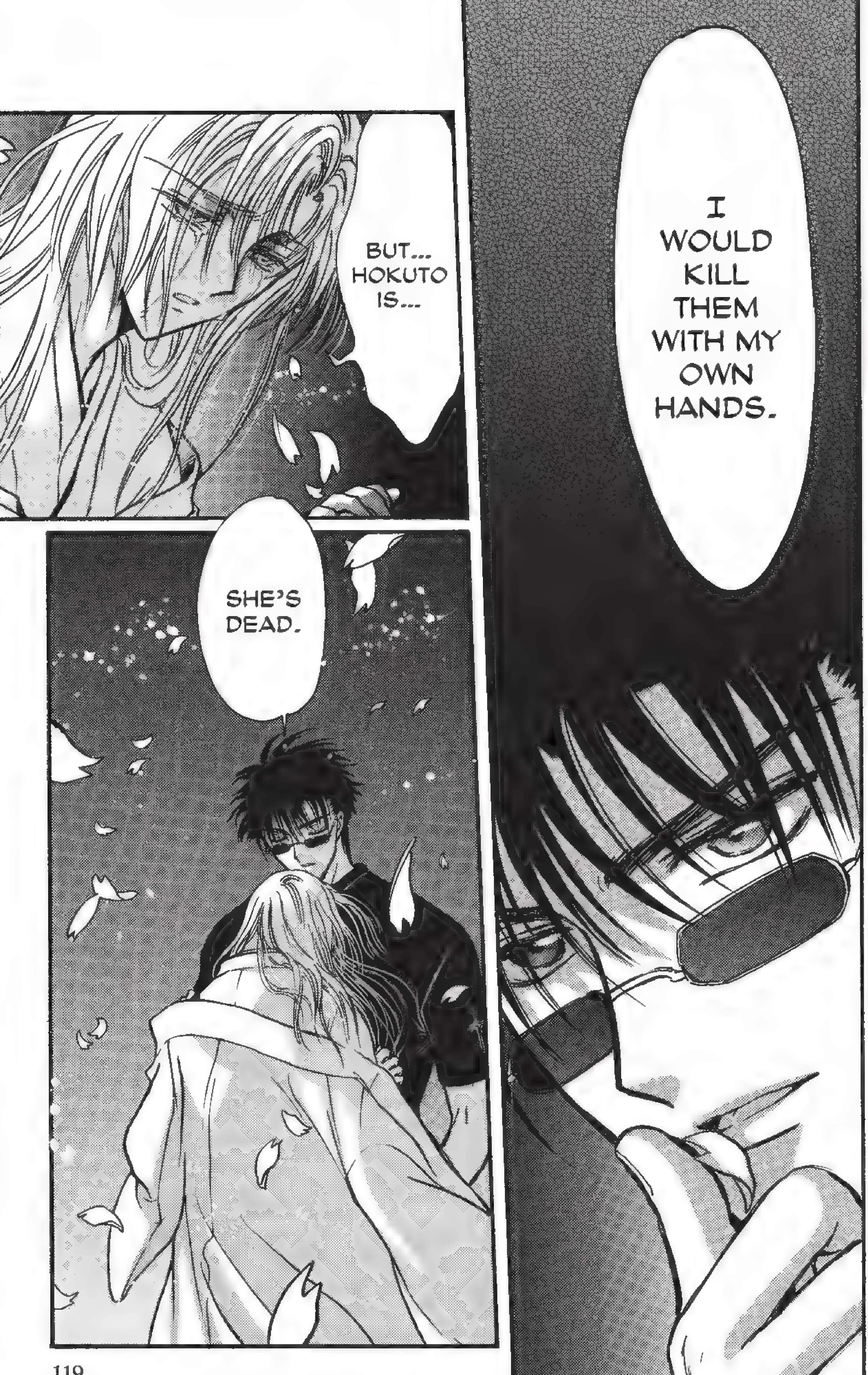

Su... ba... ru...

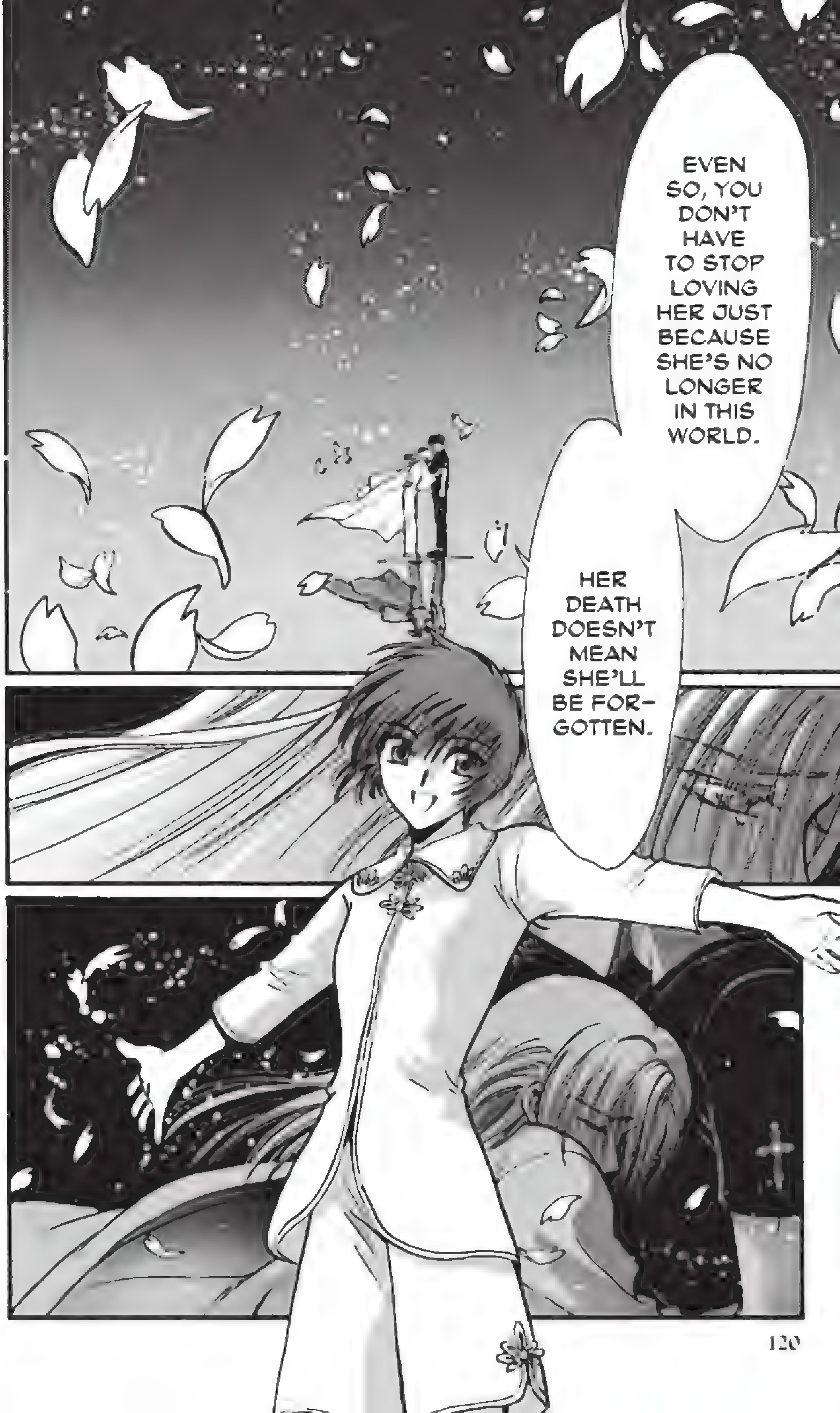

HOKUTO ...
THE FUTURE YOU LONGED FOR DID NOT COME TO PASS. THE WISH YOU SACRIFICED YOUR LIFE FOR WAS NOT FULFILLED.
I ALWAYS KNEW WHAT YOUR FATE WOULD BE... YET I COULD DO NOTHING TO CHANGE IT.

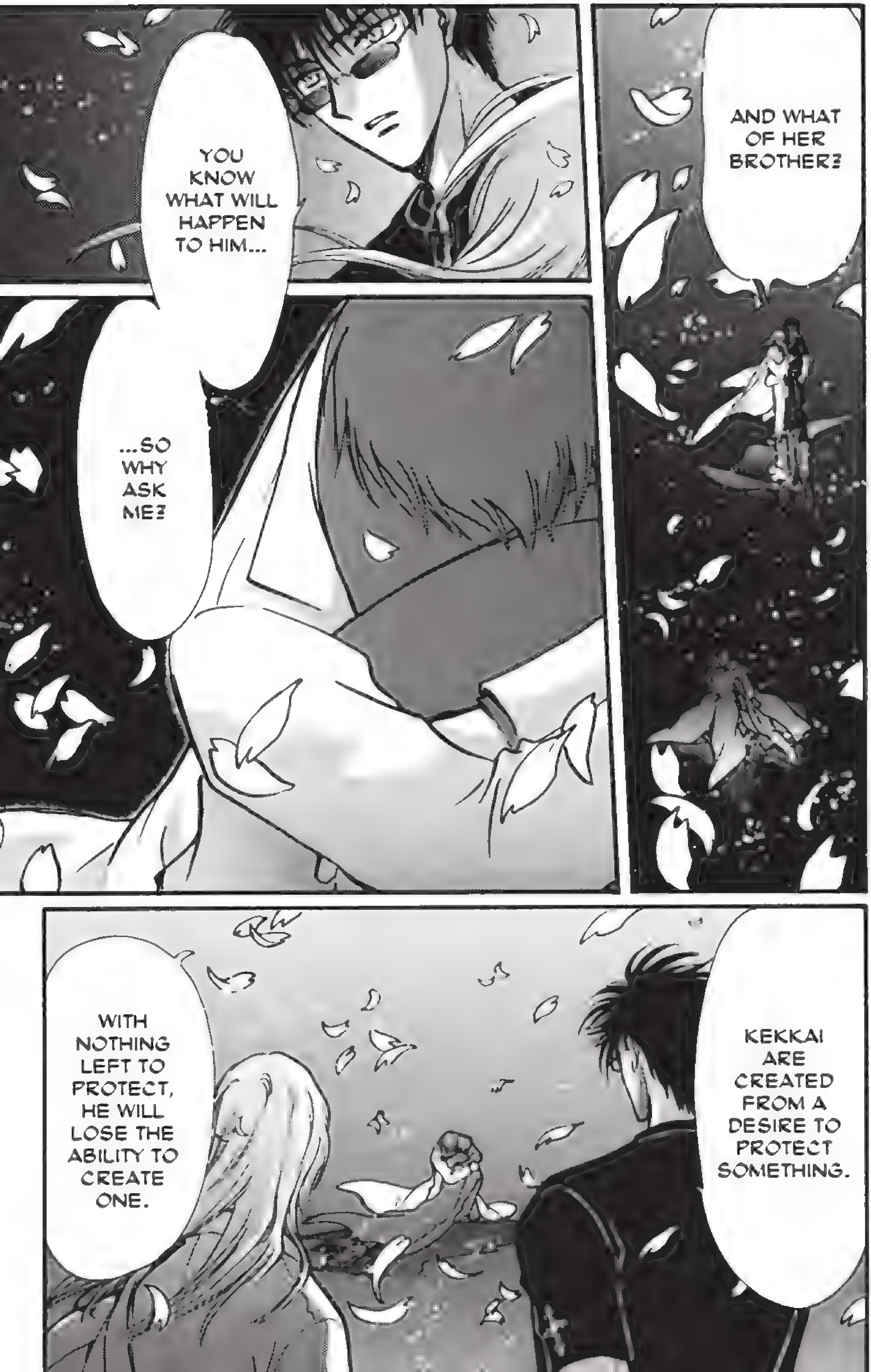

THE FUTURE CANNOT BE CHANGED.
HOW-EVER ...
...THOSE TWO WERE GIVEN A RARE BLESSING.
THEY WERE ABLE TO CHOOSE WHO WOULD END THEIR LIVES.

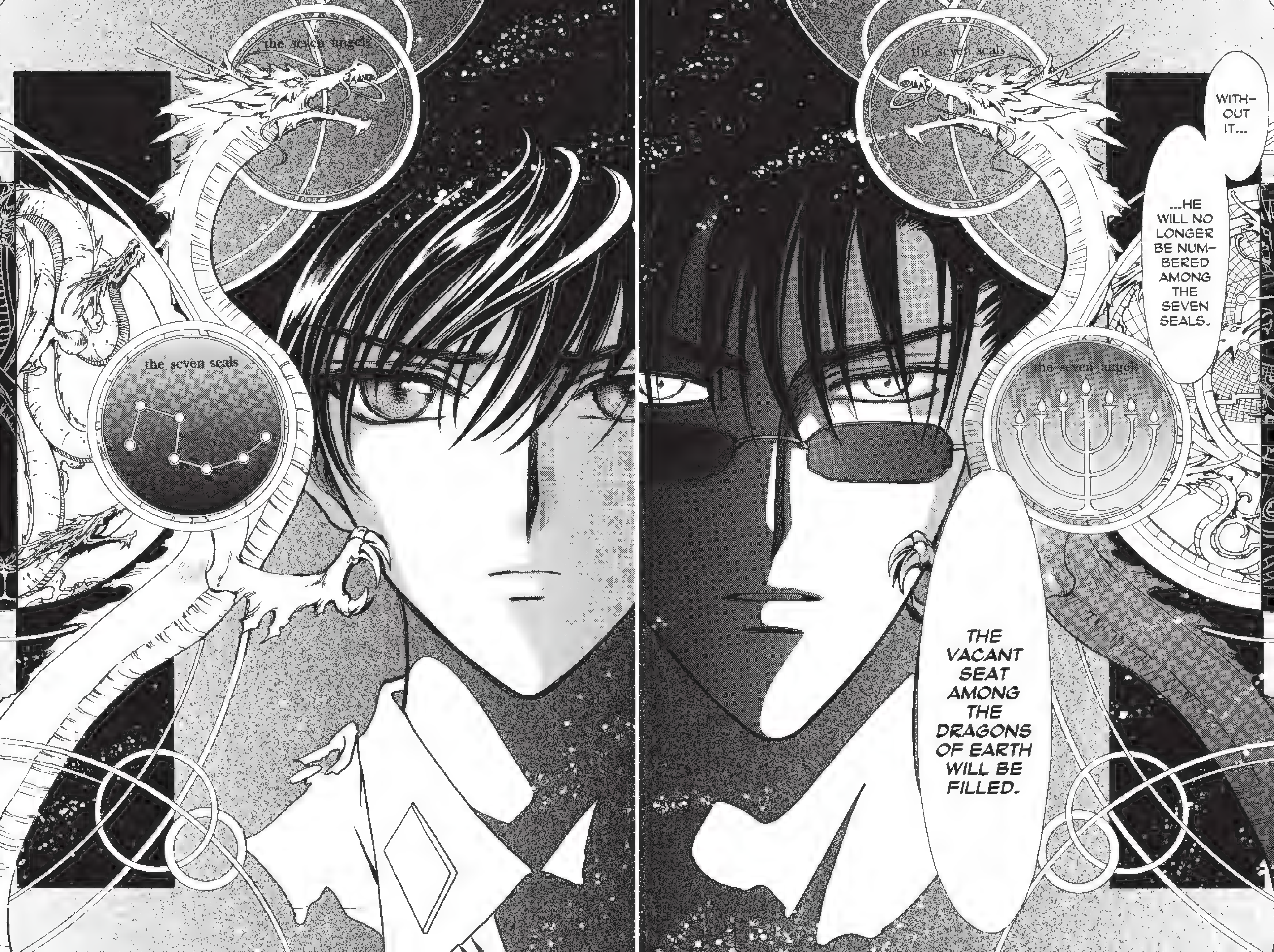

THE SAKURAZUKAMORI FELT NO ATTACHMENT TO LIFE WHILE HE WAS LIVING IT.
AT LEAST HE FOUND HAPPINESS IN THE END.
YOU MEAN...
...THIS IS WHAT THE DRAGON OF EARTH *WANTED*?

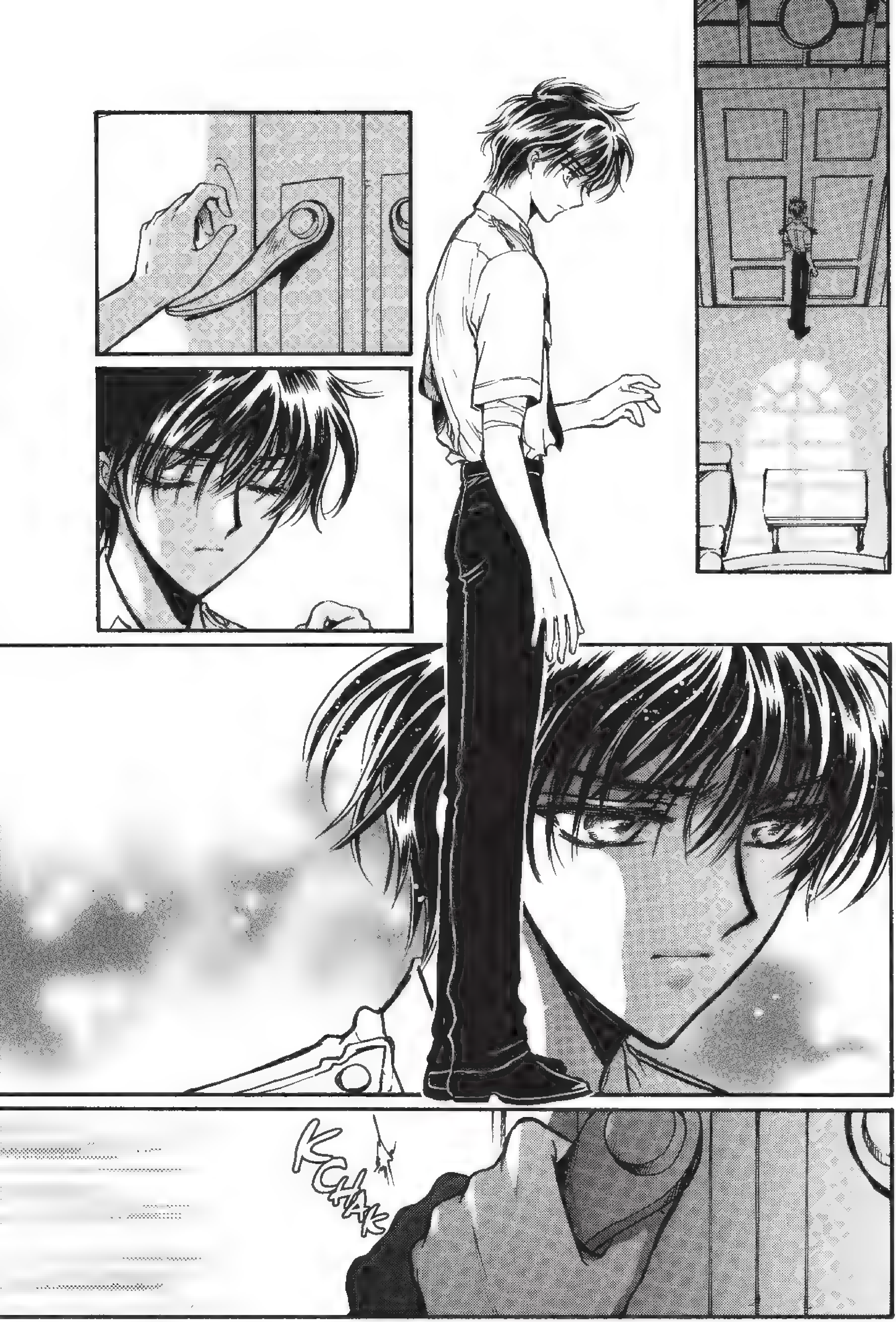

AND HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE THE DRAGON OF HEAVEN FEELS?
IF IT WERE ME...
...I WOULD NEVER ALLOW ANYONE ELSE...
...TO TAKE THE LIFE OF THE PERSON WHO IS TRULY SPECIAL TO ME.

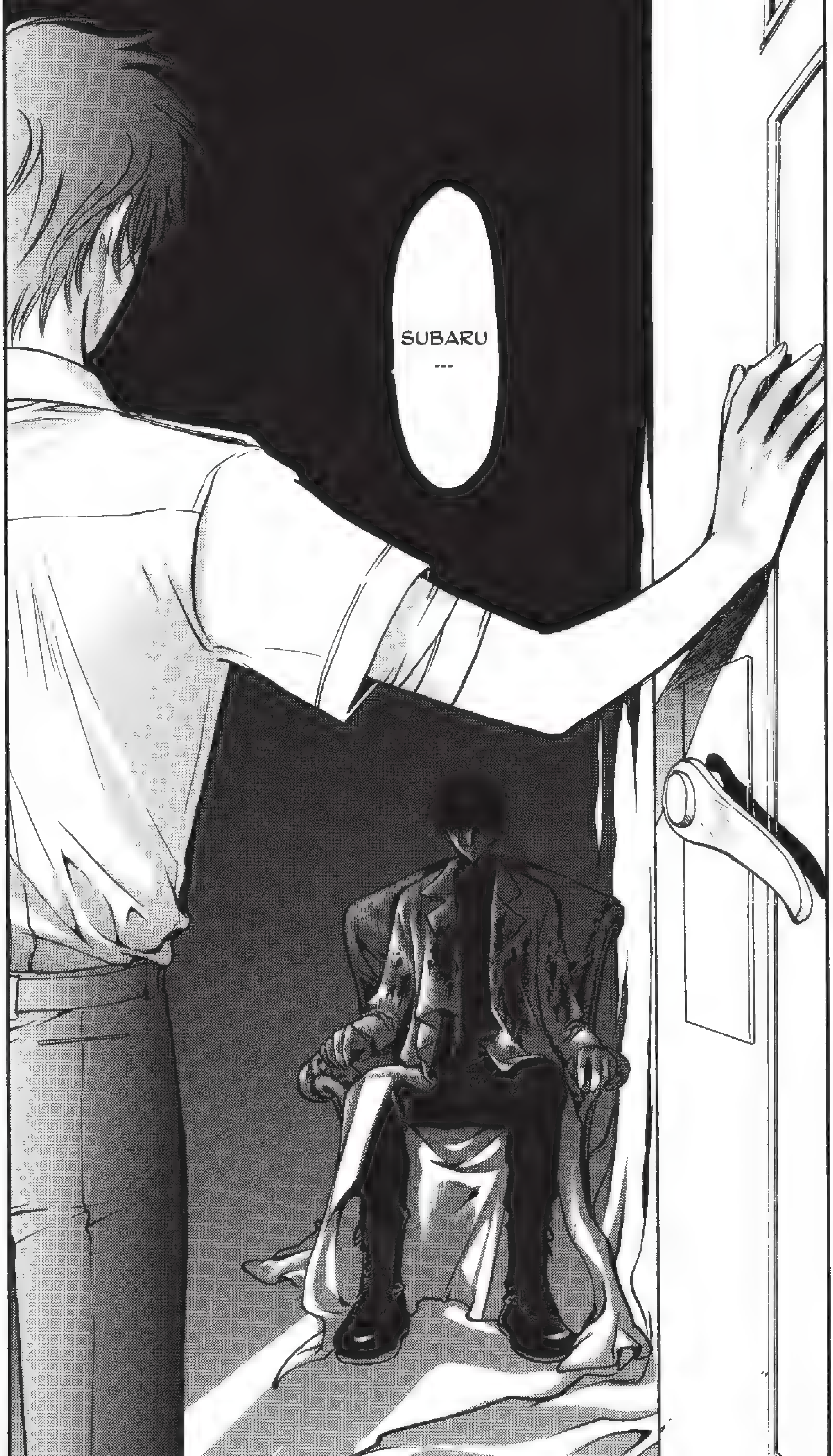

I WOULD KILL THEM WITH MY OWN HANDS.
BUT... HOKUTO IS...
SHE'S DEAD.


EVEN SO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO STOP LOVING HER JUST BECAUSE SHE'S NO LONGER IN THIS WORLD.
HER DEATH DOESN'T MEAN SHE'LL BE FORGOTTEN.


AND WHAT OF HER BROTHER?
YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM...
...SO WHY ASK ME?
KEKKAI ARE CREATED FROM A DESIRE TO PROTECT SOMETHING.
WITH NOTHING LEFT TO PROTECT, HE WILL LOSE THE ABILITY TO CREATE ONE.


the seven seals
WITHOUT IT...
...HE WILL NO LONGER BE NUMBERED AMONG THE SEVEN SEALS.
the seven angels
THE VACANT SEAT AMONG THE DRAGONS OF EARTH WILL BE FILLED.
the seven angels
the seven seals


KCHAK


SUBARU
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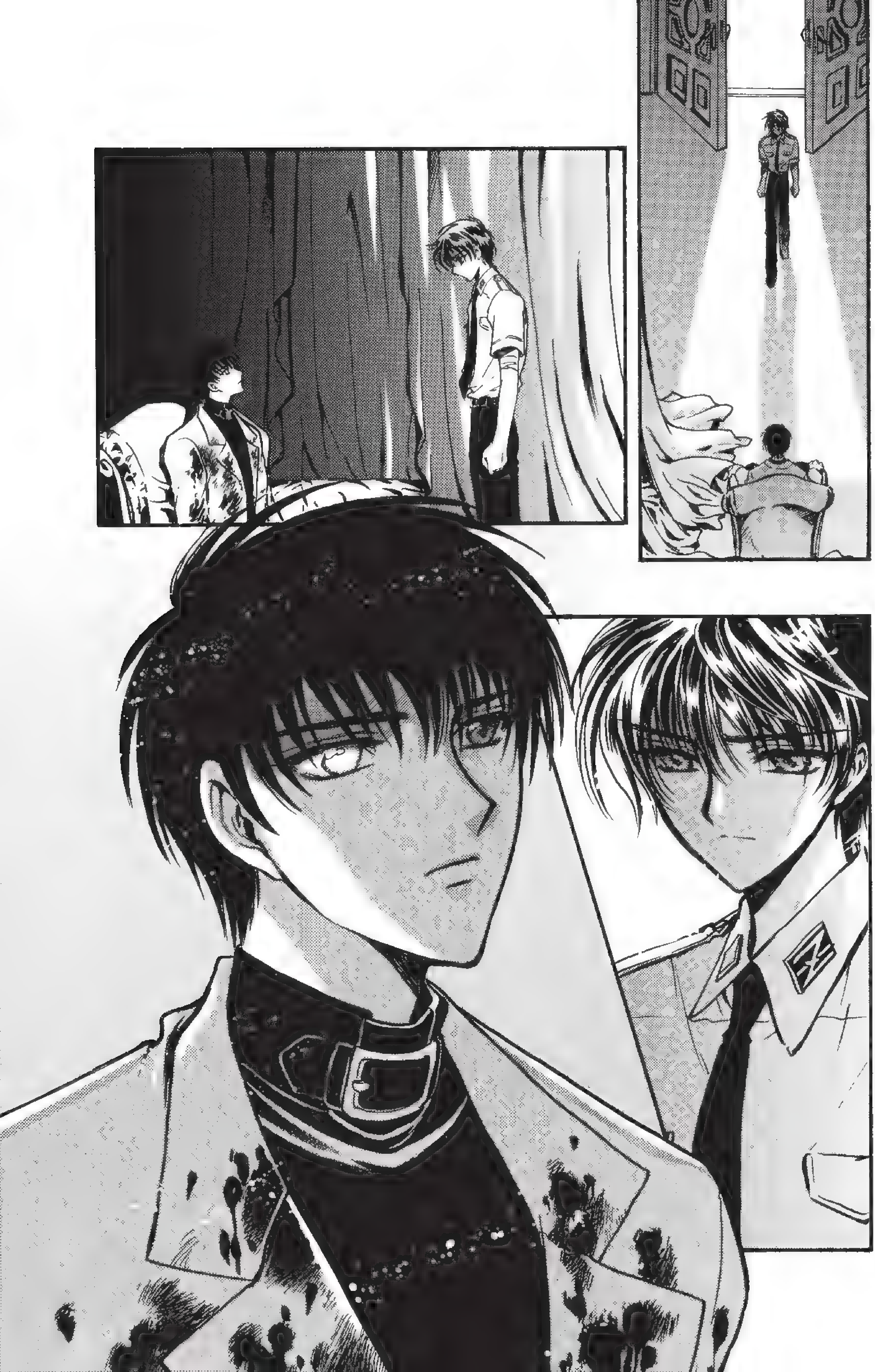
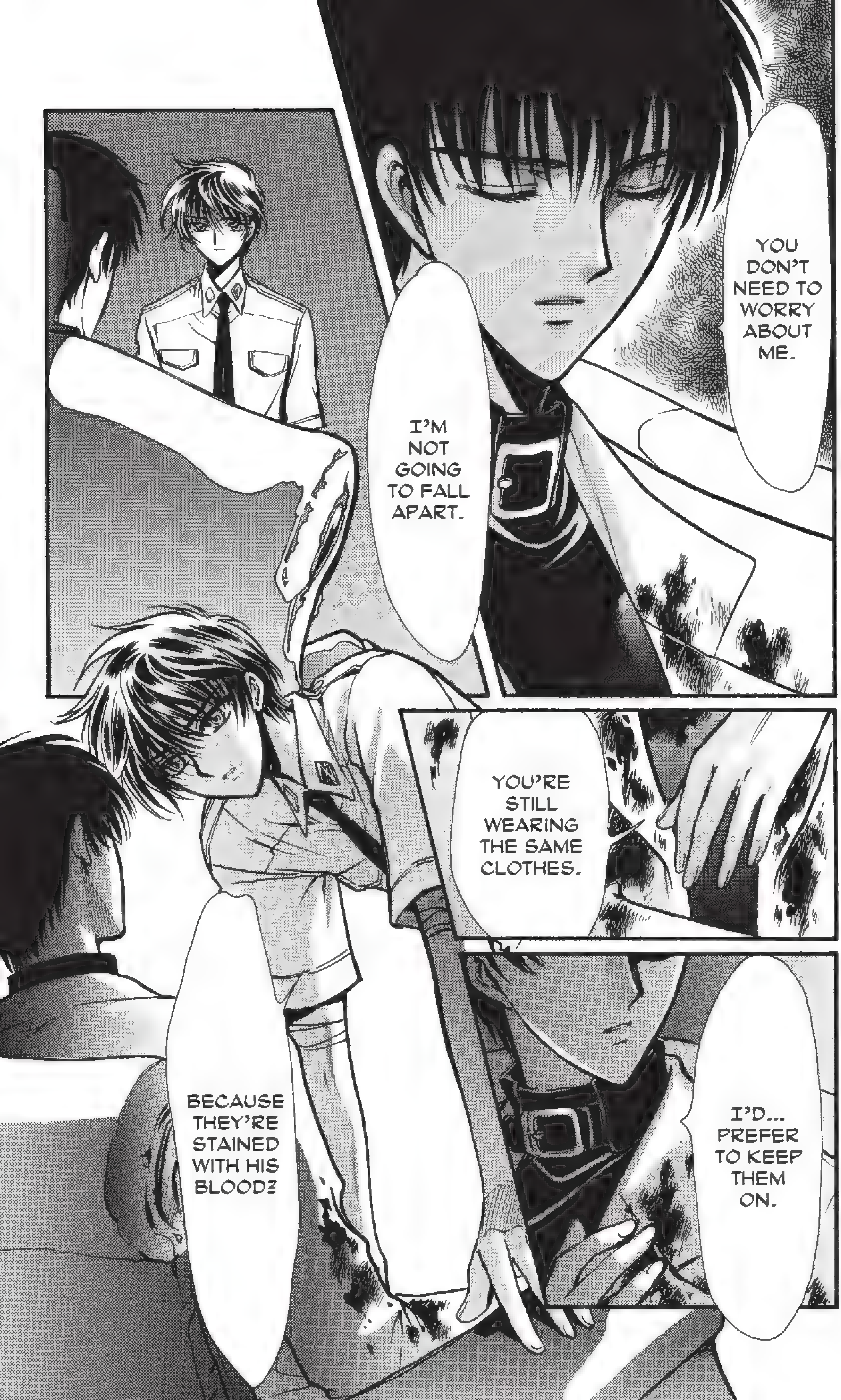
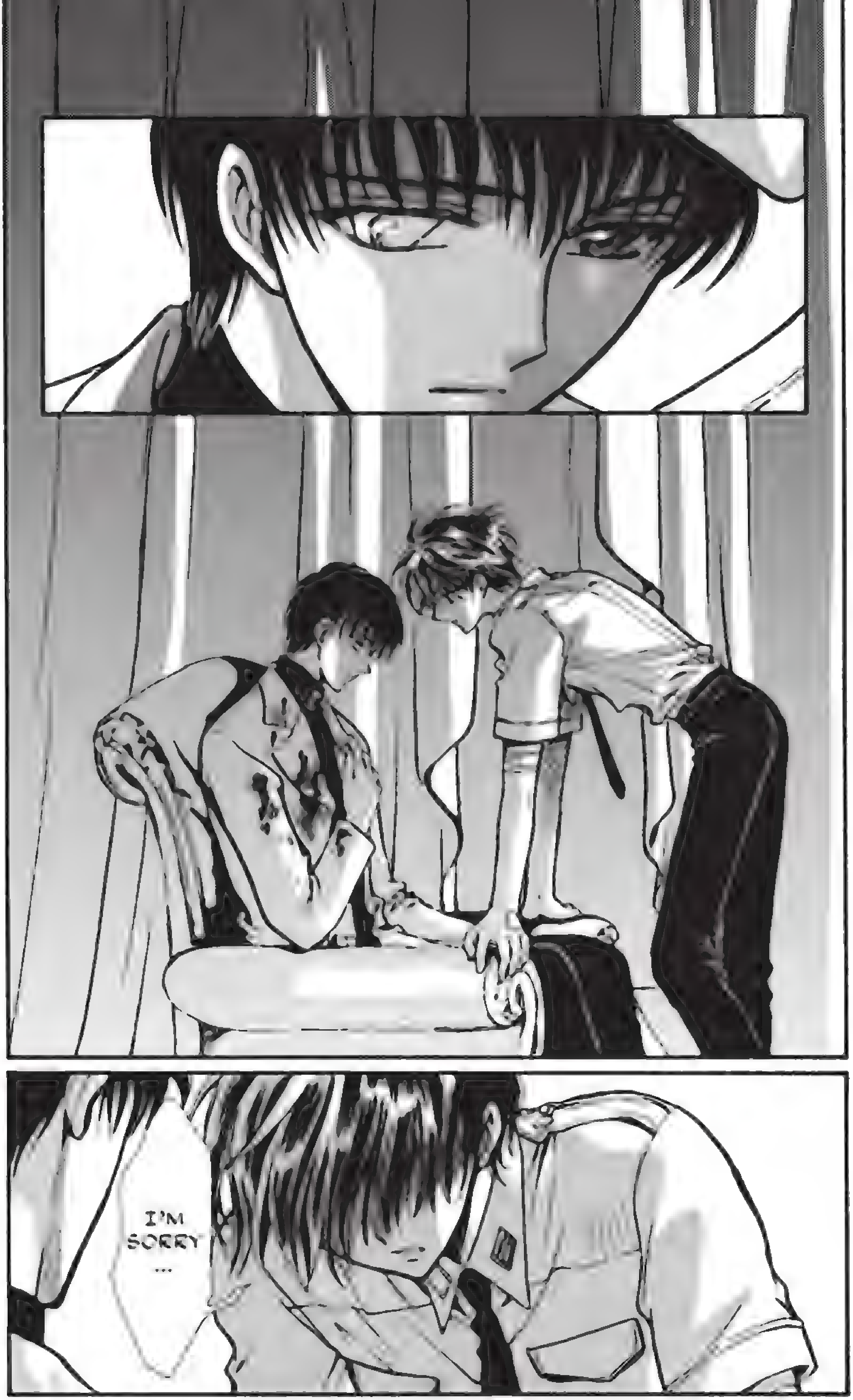
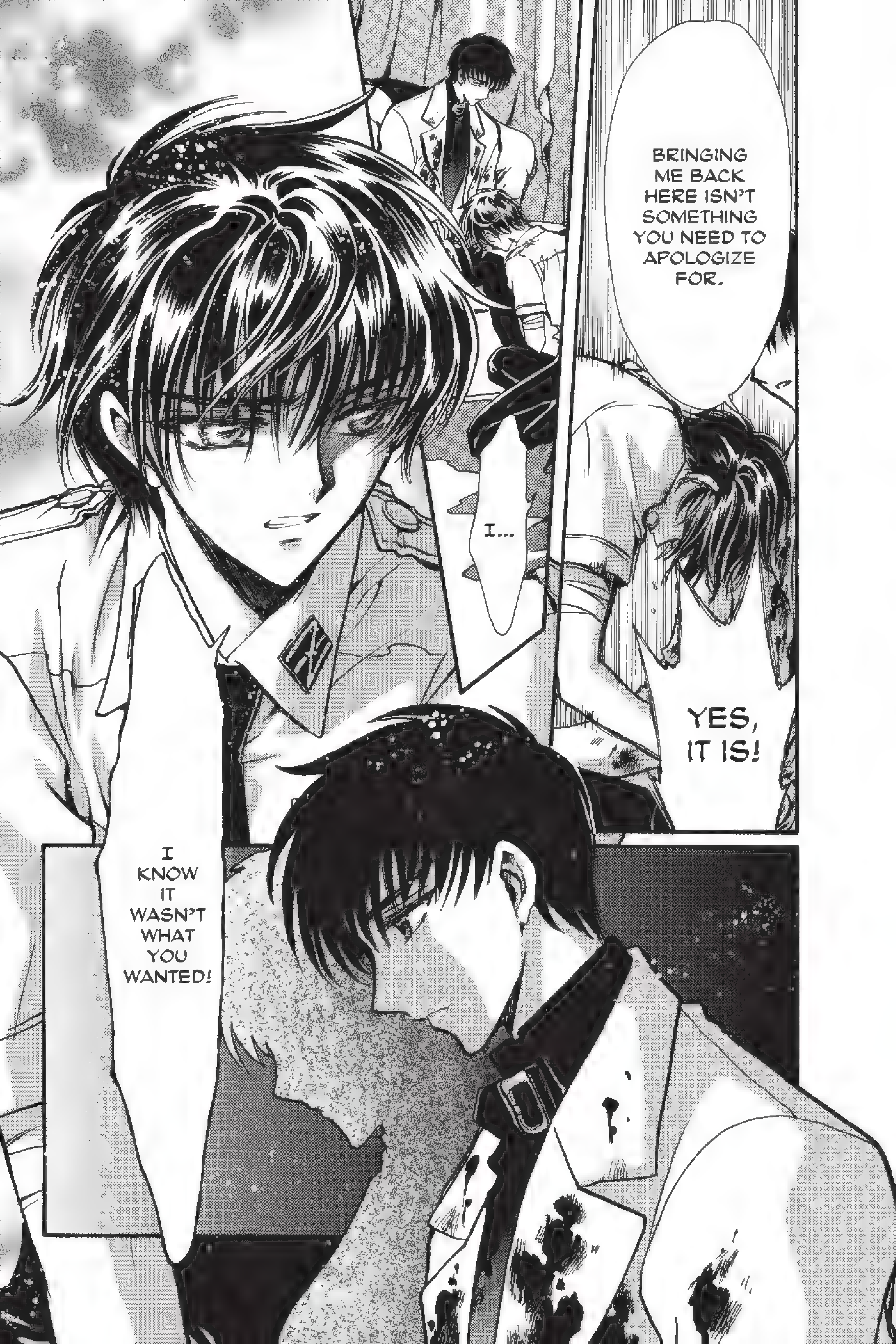
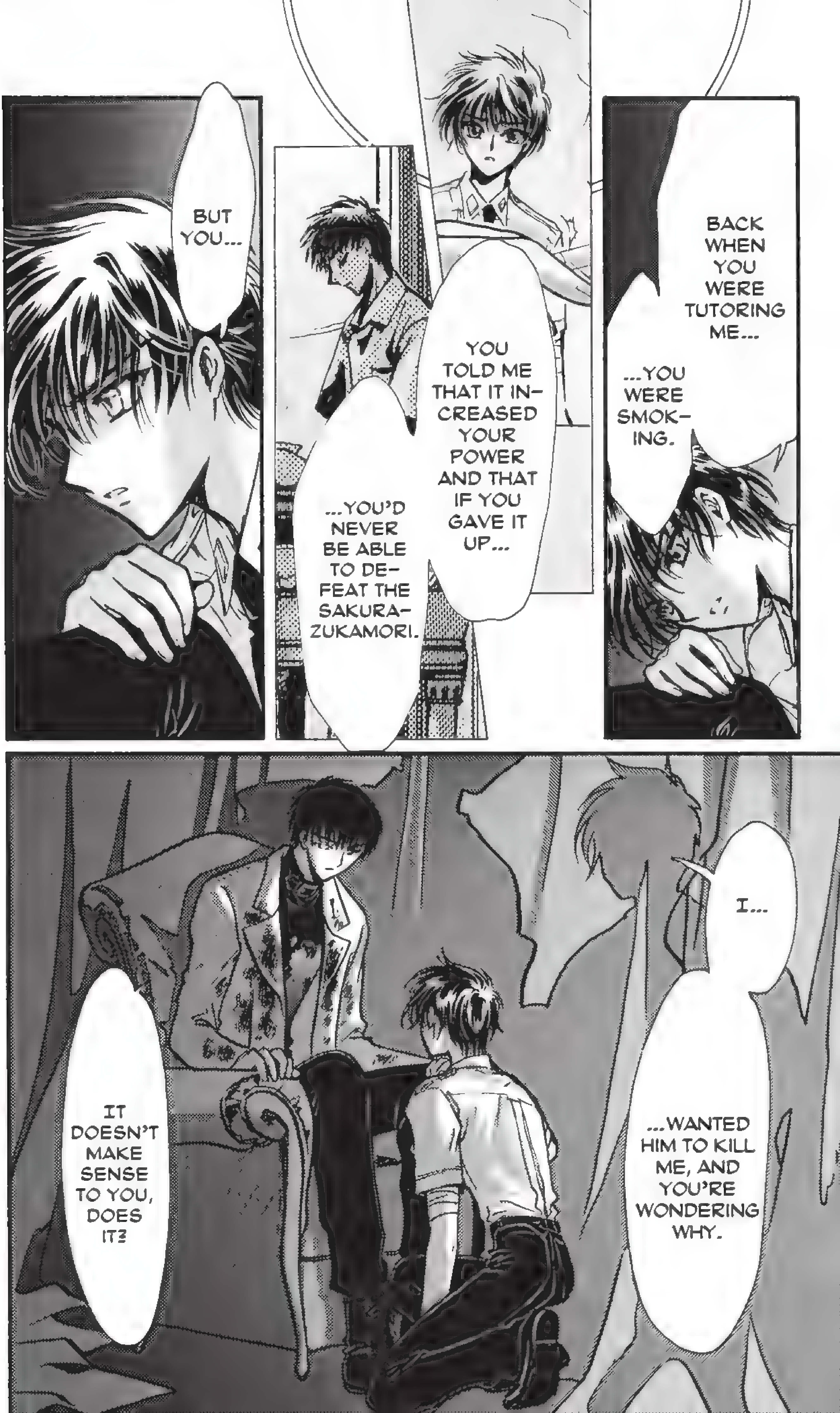
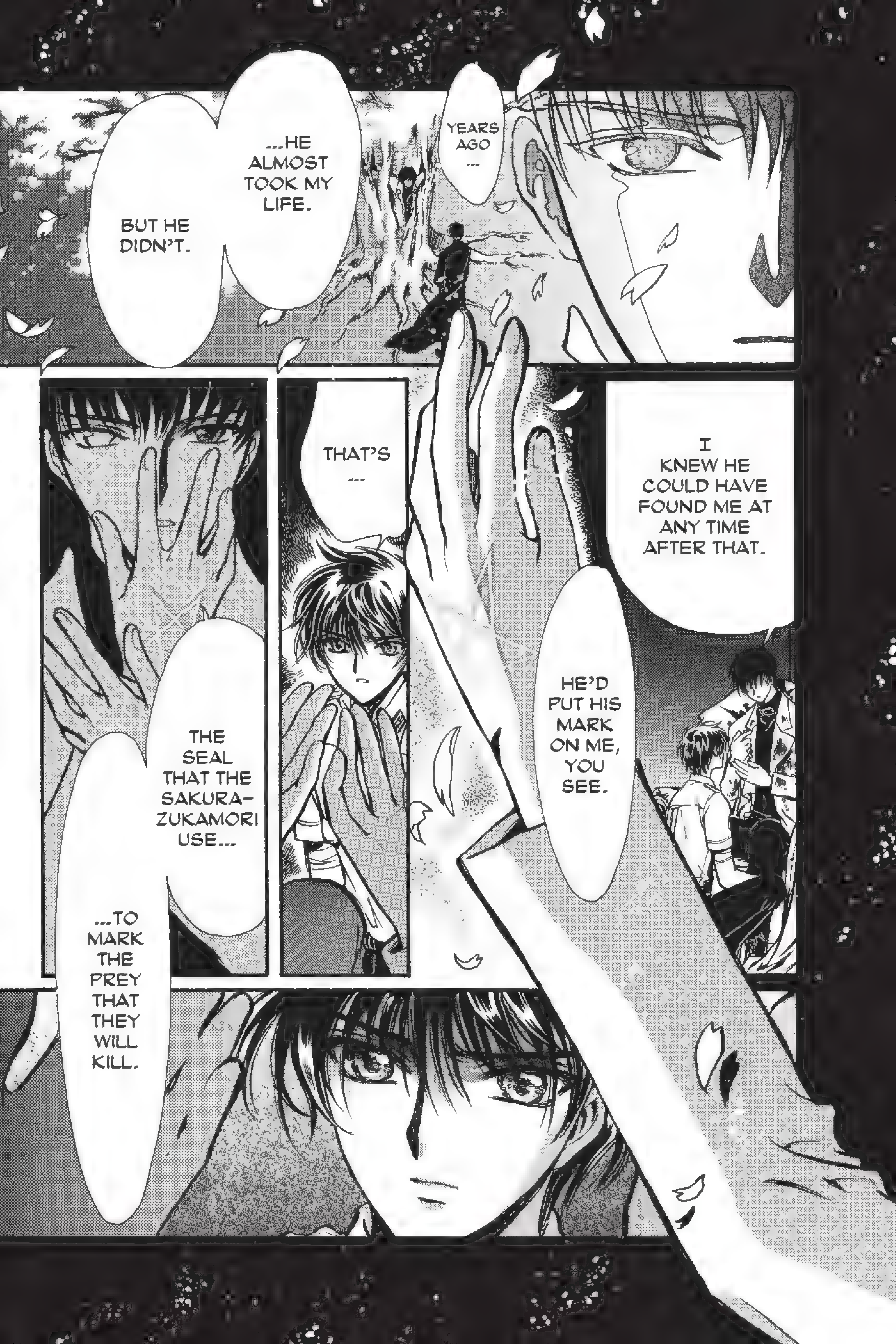


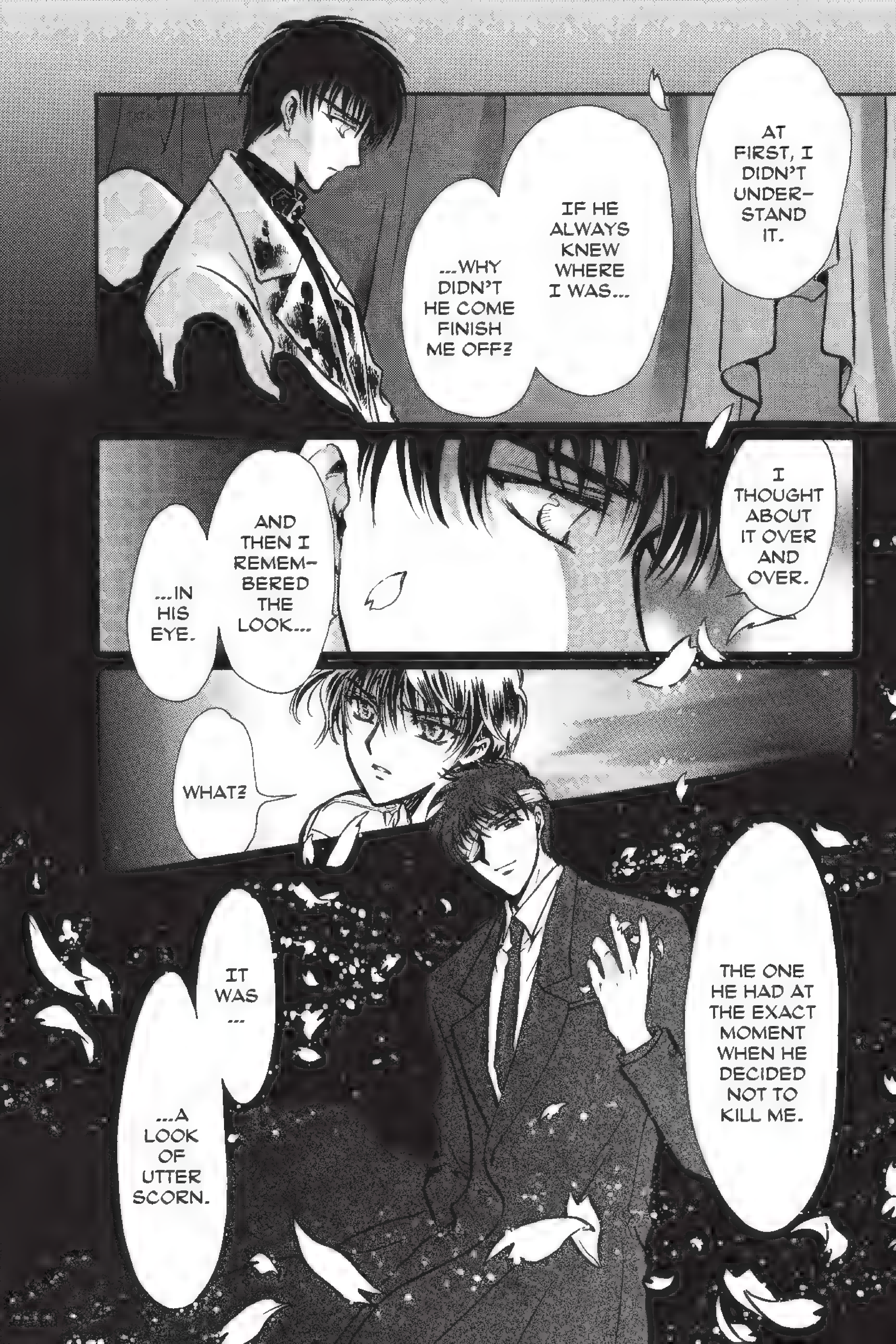

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
I'M NOT GOING TO FALL APART.
YOU'RE STILL WEARING THE SAME CLOTHES.
I'D... PREFER TO KEEP THEM ON.
BECAUSE THEY'RE STAINED WITH HIS BLOOD?

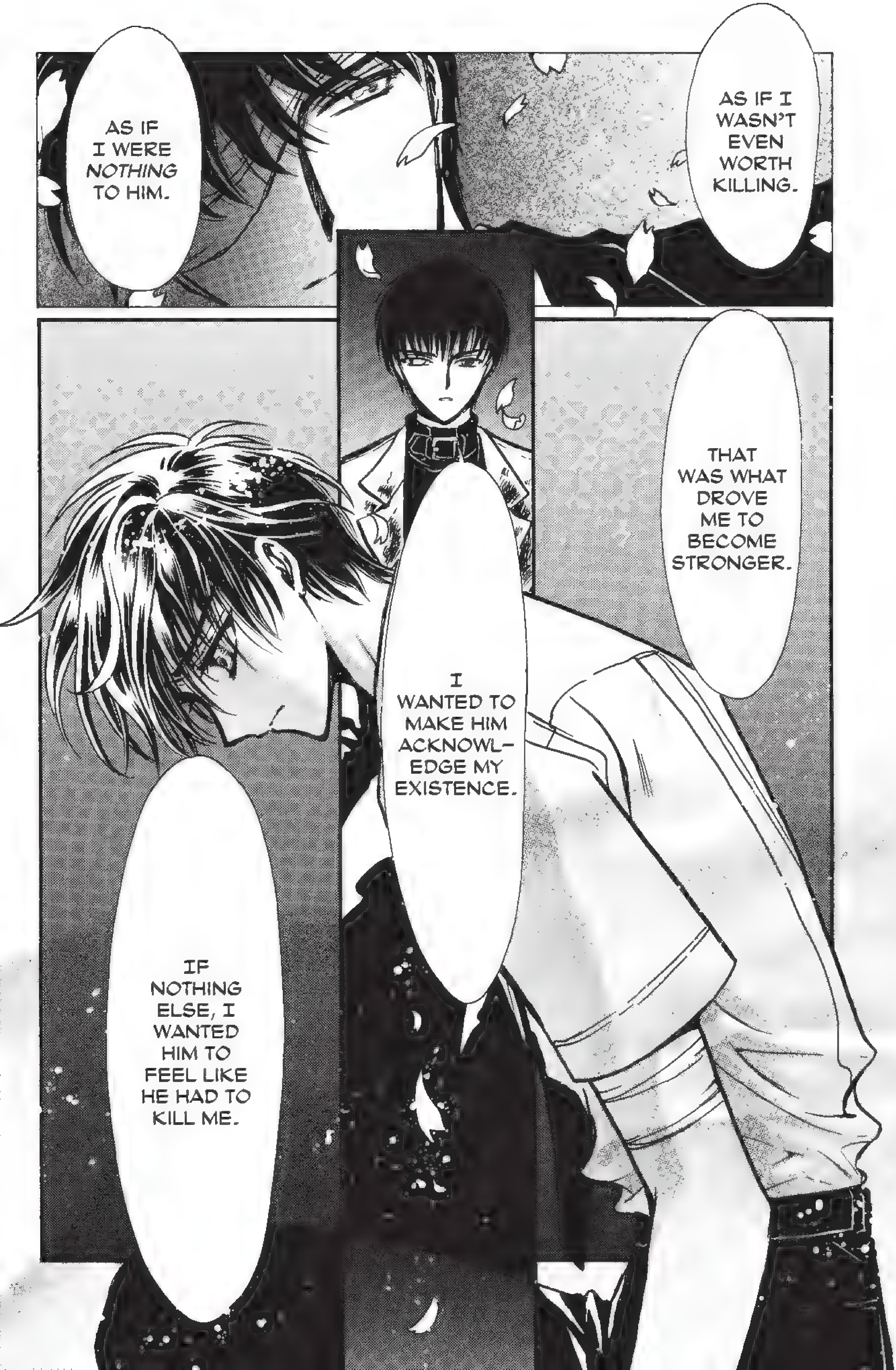

I'M SORRY ...

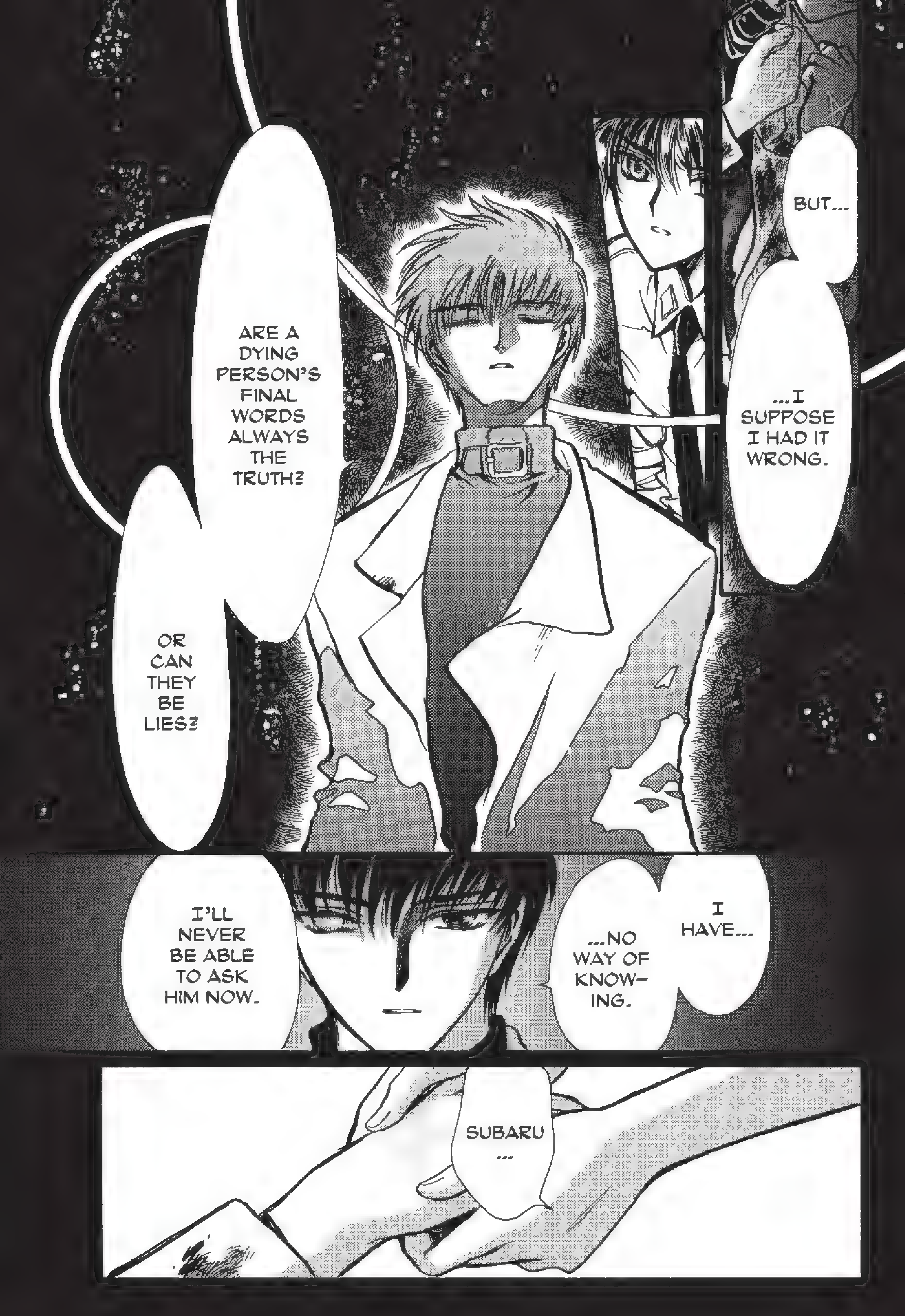

BRINGING ME BACK HERE ISN'T SOMETHING YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
I...
YES, IT IS!
I KNOW IT WASN'T WHAT YOU WANTED!

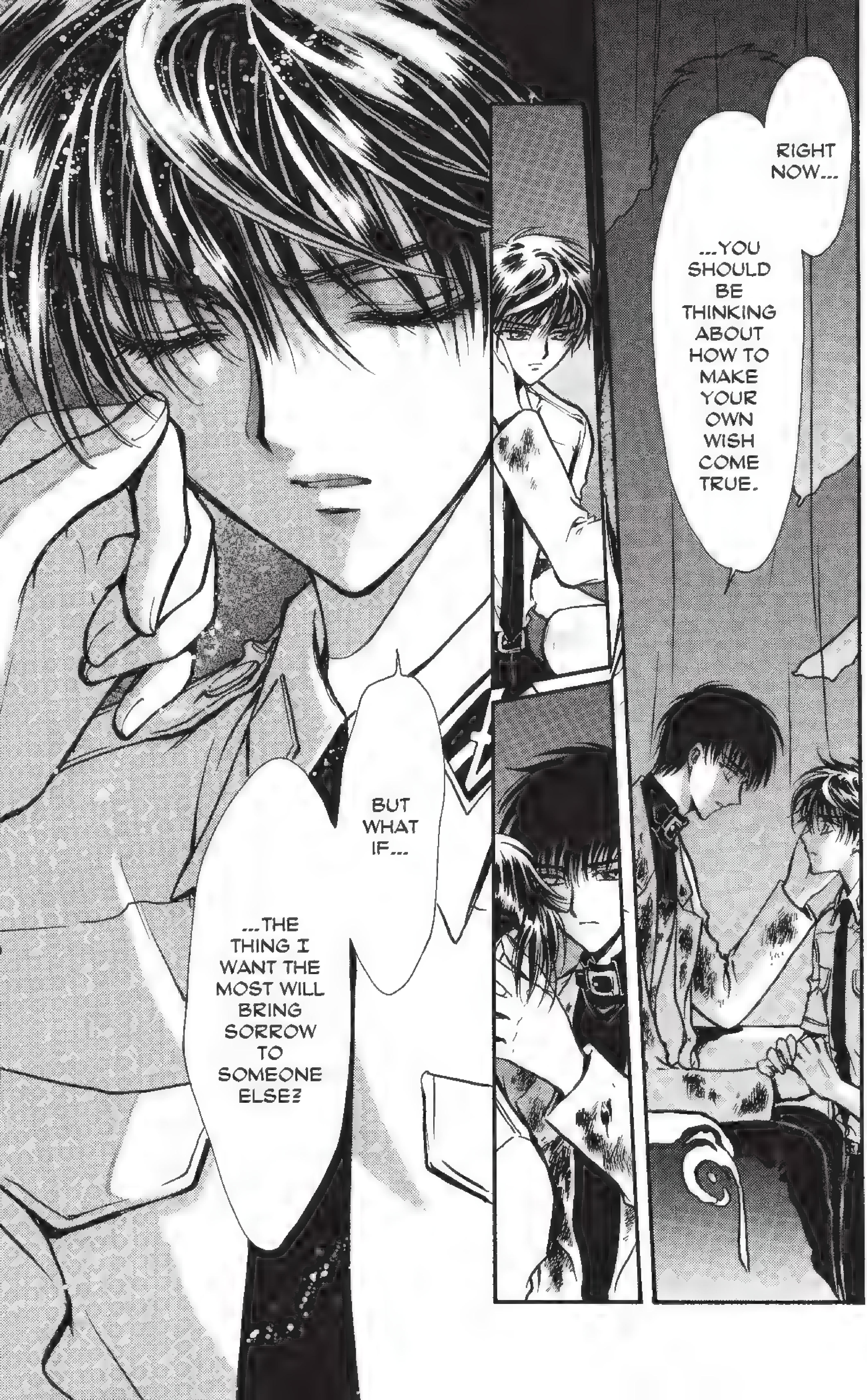

BACK WHEN YOU WERE TUTORING ME...
...YOU WERE SMOKING.
YOU TOLD ME THAT IT INCREASED YOUR POWER AND THAT IF YOU GAVE IT UP...
...YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THE SAKURAZUKAMORI.
BUT YOU...
I...
...WANTED HIM TO KILL ME, AND YOU'RE WONDERING WHY.
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO YOU, DOES IT?

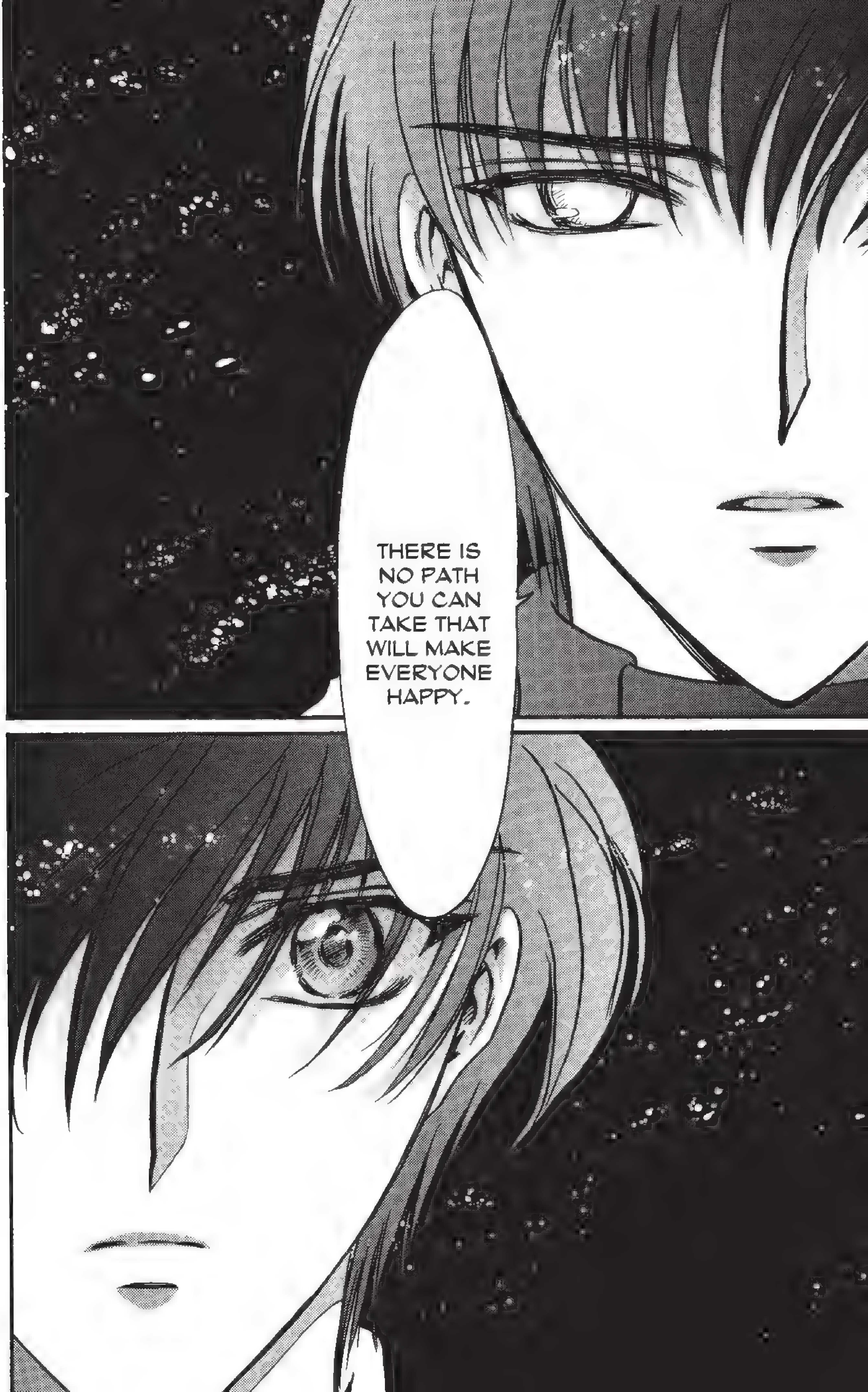

YEARS AGO ...
...HE ALMOST TOOK MY LIFE.
BUT HE DIDN'T.
I KNEW HE COULD HAVE FOUND ME AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT.
HE'D PUT HIS MARK ON ME, YOU SEE.
THAT'S ...
THE SEAL THAT THE SAKURAZUKAMORI USE...
...TO MARK THE PREY THAT THEY WILL KILL.

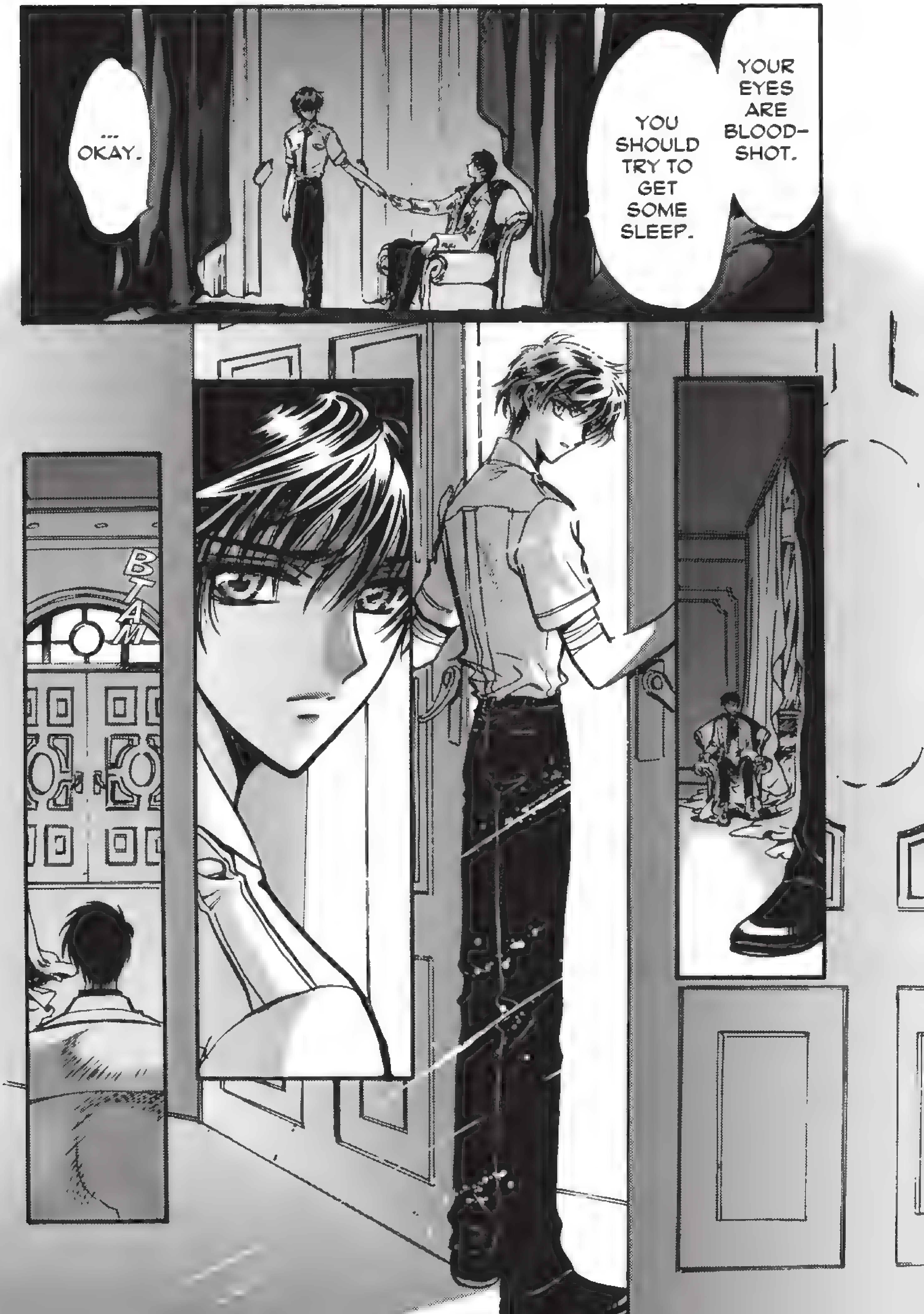

AT FIRST, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT.
IF HE ALWAYS KNEW WHERE I WAS...
...WHY DIDN'T HE COME FINISH ME OFF?
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT OVER AND OVER.
AND THEN I REMEMBERED THE LOOK...
...IN HIS EYE.
WHAT?
THE ONE HE HAD AT THE EXACT MOMENT WHEN HE DECIDED NOT TO KILL ME.
IT WAS...
...A LOOK OF UTTER SCORN.

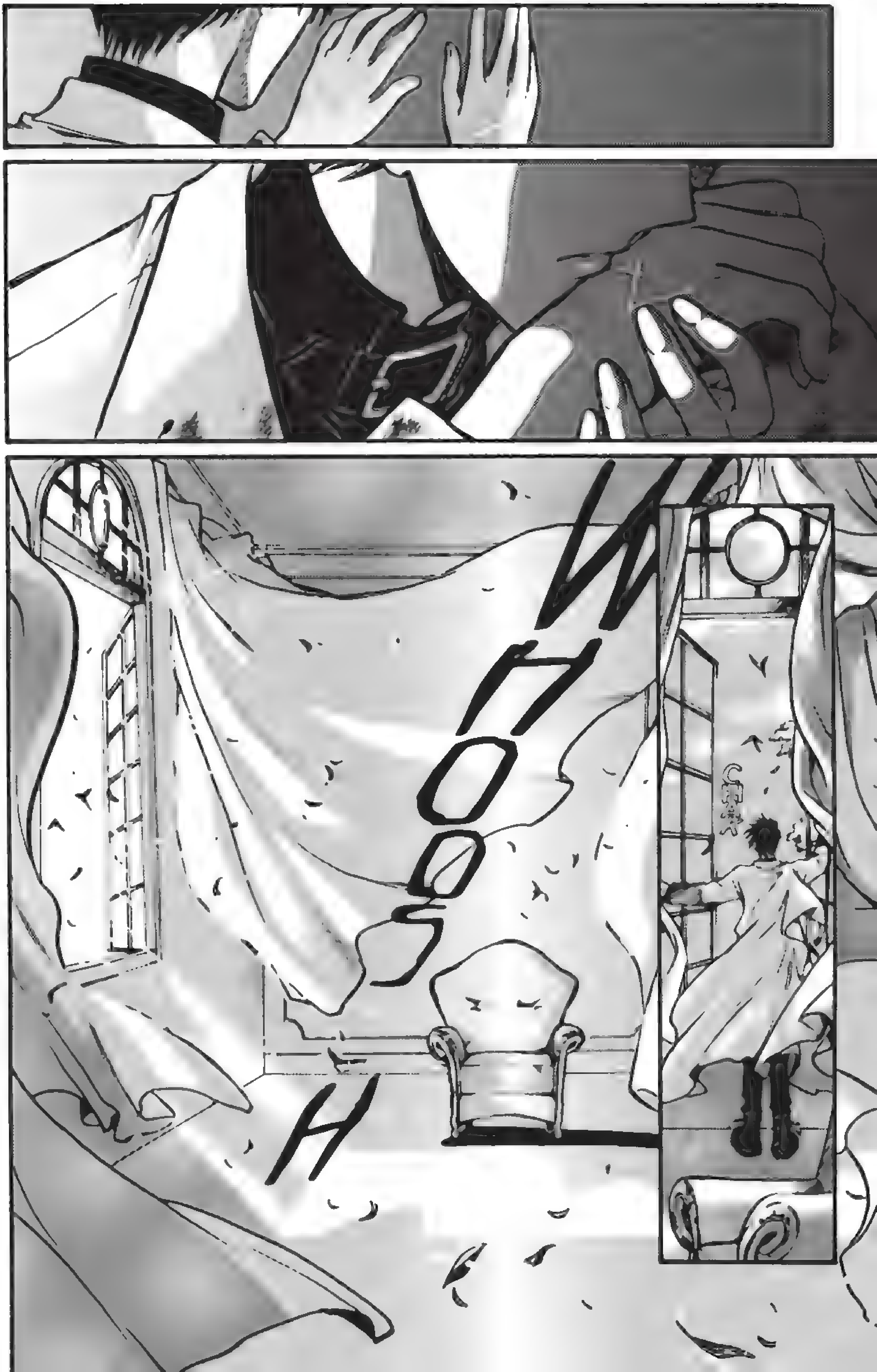

AS IF I WASN'T EVEN WORTH KILLING.
AS IF I WERE *NOTHING* TO HIM.
THAT WAS WHAT DROVE ME TO BECOME STRONGER.
I WANTED TO MAKE HIM ACKNOWLEDGE MY EXISTENCE.
IF NOTHING ELSE, I WANTED HIM TO FEEL LIKE HE HAD TO KILL ME.

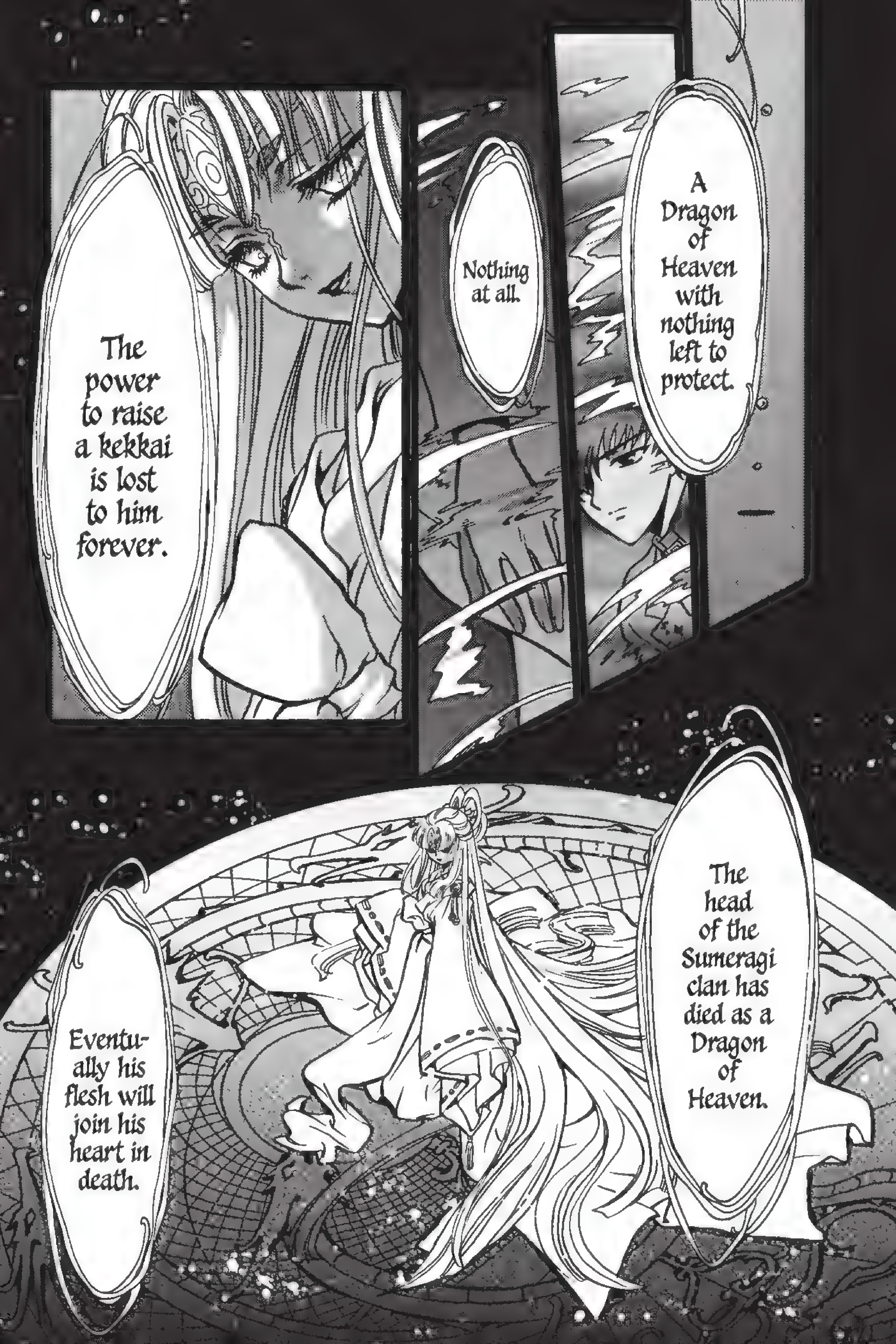

BUT...
...I SUPPOSE I HAD IT WRONG.
ARE A DYING PERSON'S FINAL WORDS ALWAYS THE TRUTH?
OR CAN THEY BE LIES?
I HAVE...
...NO WAY OF KNOWING.
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO ASK HIM NOW.
SUBARU...

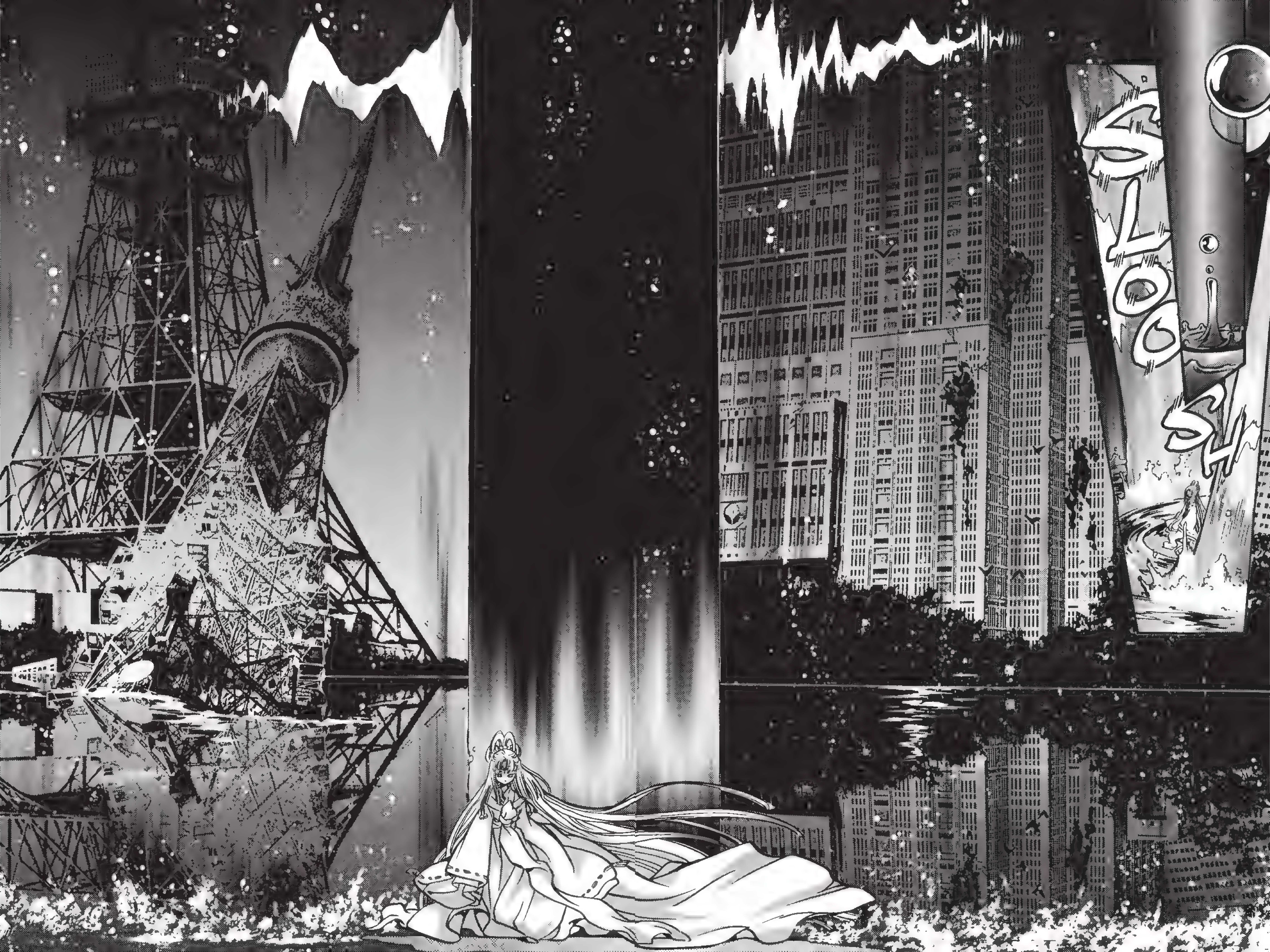

RIGHT NOW...
...YOU SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN WISH COME TRUE.
BUT WHAT IF...
...THE THING I WANT THE MOST WILL BRING SORROW TO SOMEONE ELSE?

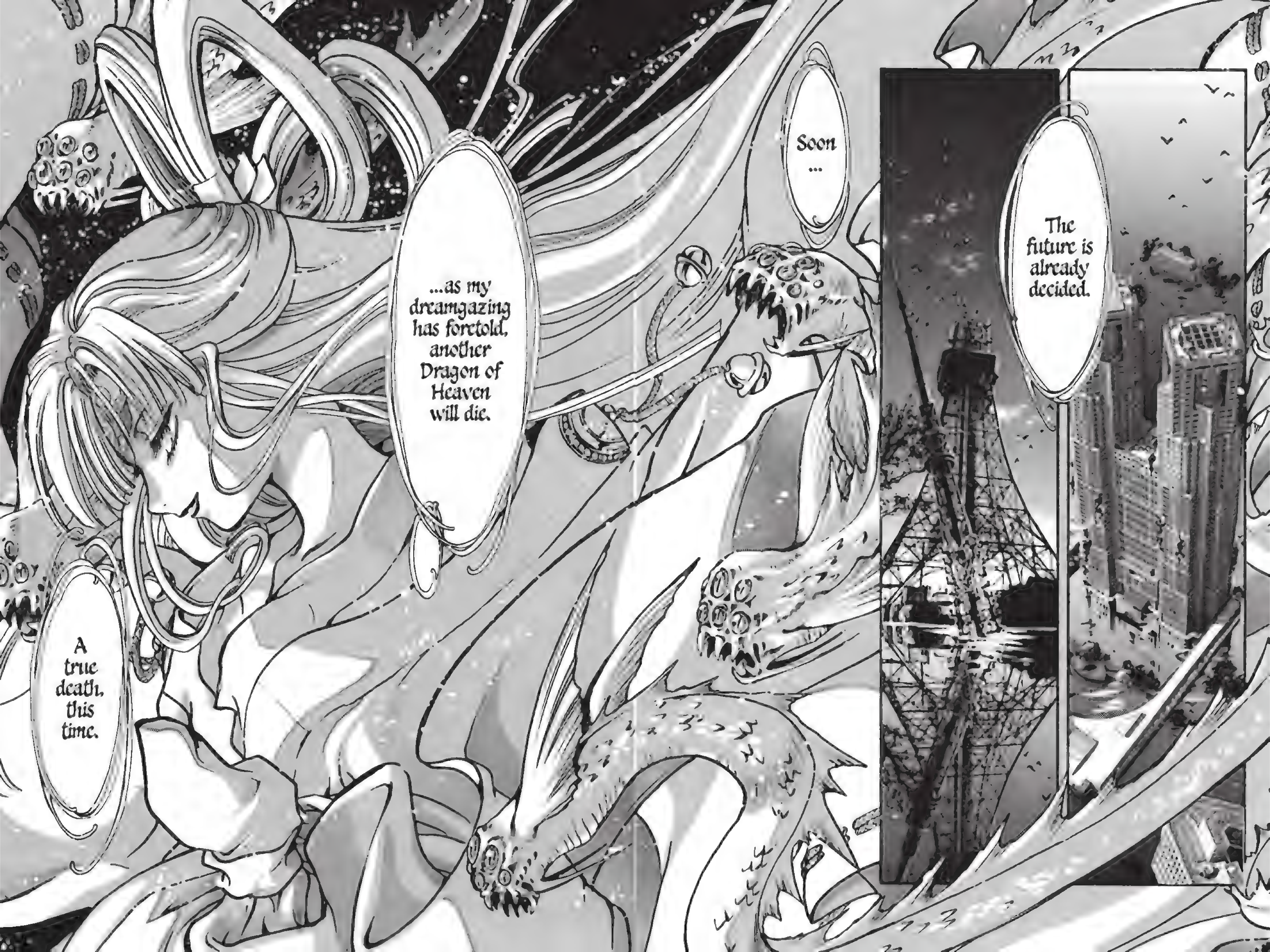

THERE IS NO PATH YOU CAN TAKE THAT WILL MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY.

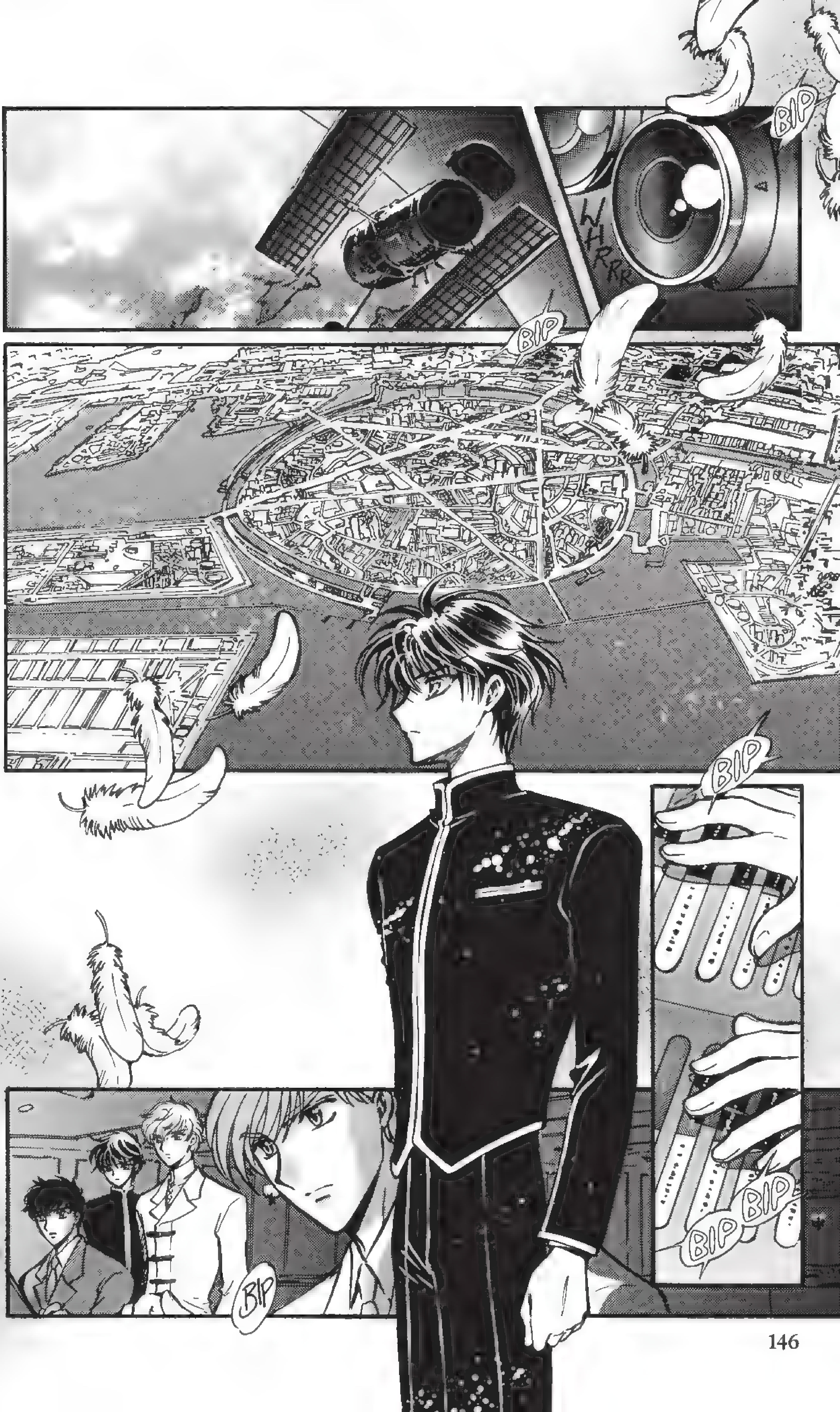

YOUR EYES ARE BLOOD-SHOT.
YOU SHOULD TRY TO GET SOME SLEEP.
... OKAY.
BTAM

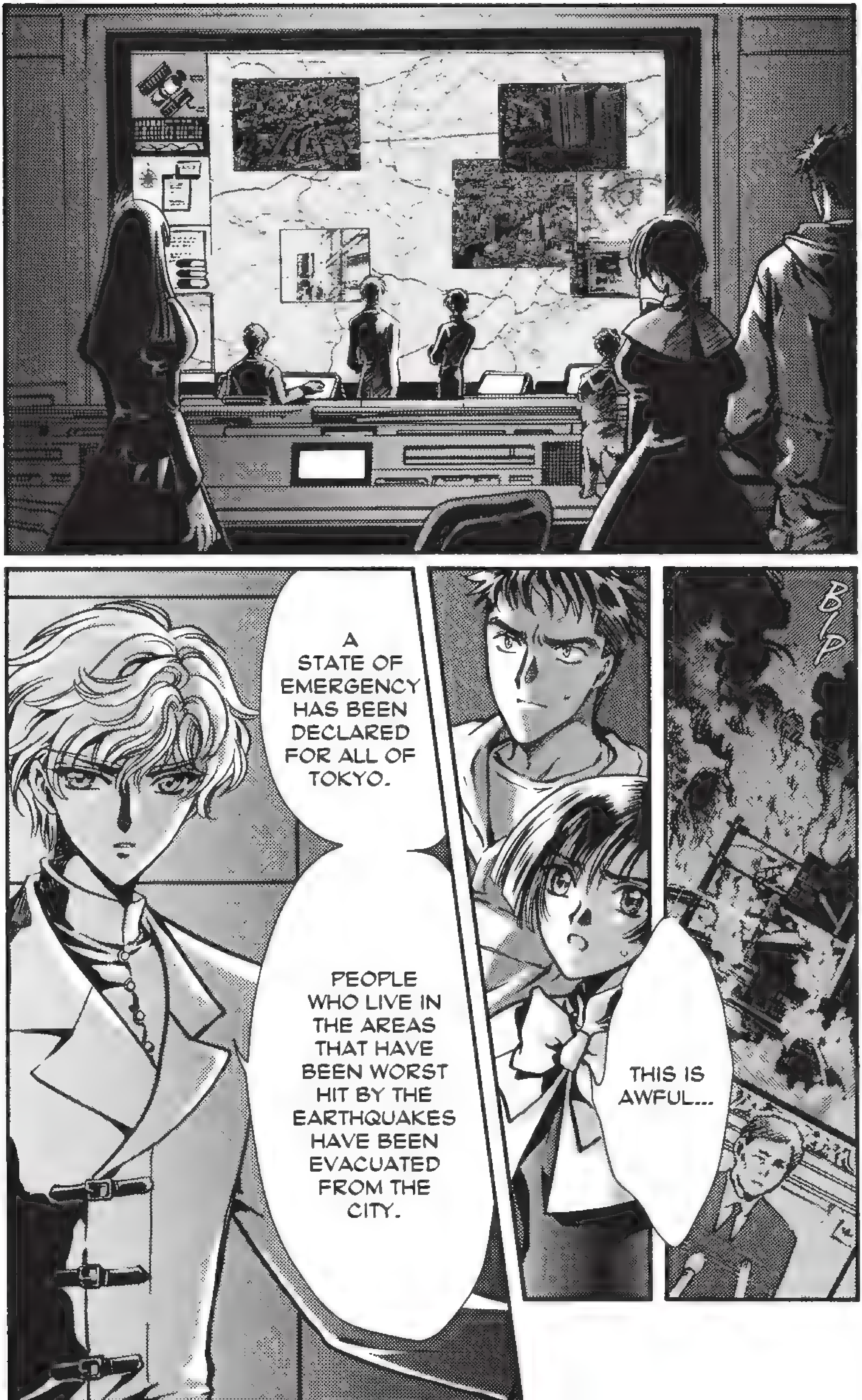

WHOOSH

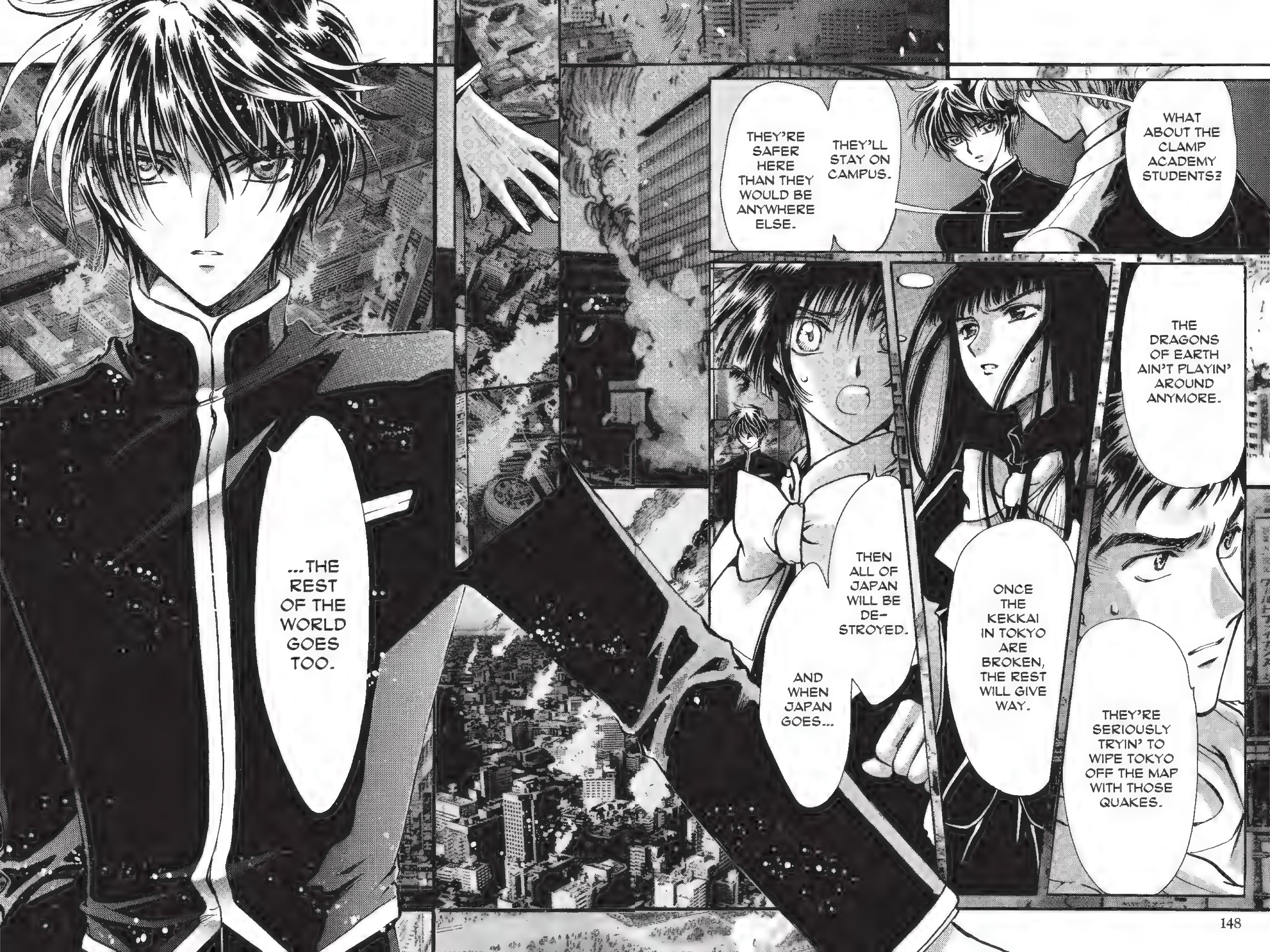

A Dragon of Heaven with nothing left to protect.
Nothing at all.
The power to raise a kekkai is lost to him forever.
The head of the Sumeragi clan has died as a Dragon of Heaven.
Eventually his flesh will join his heart in death.

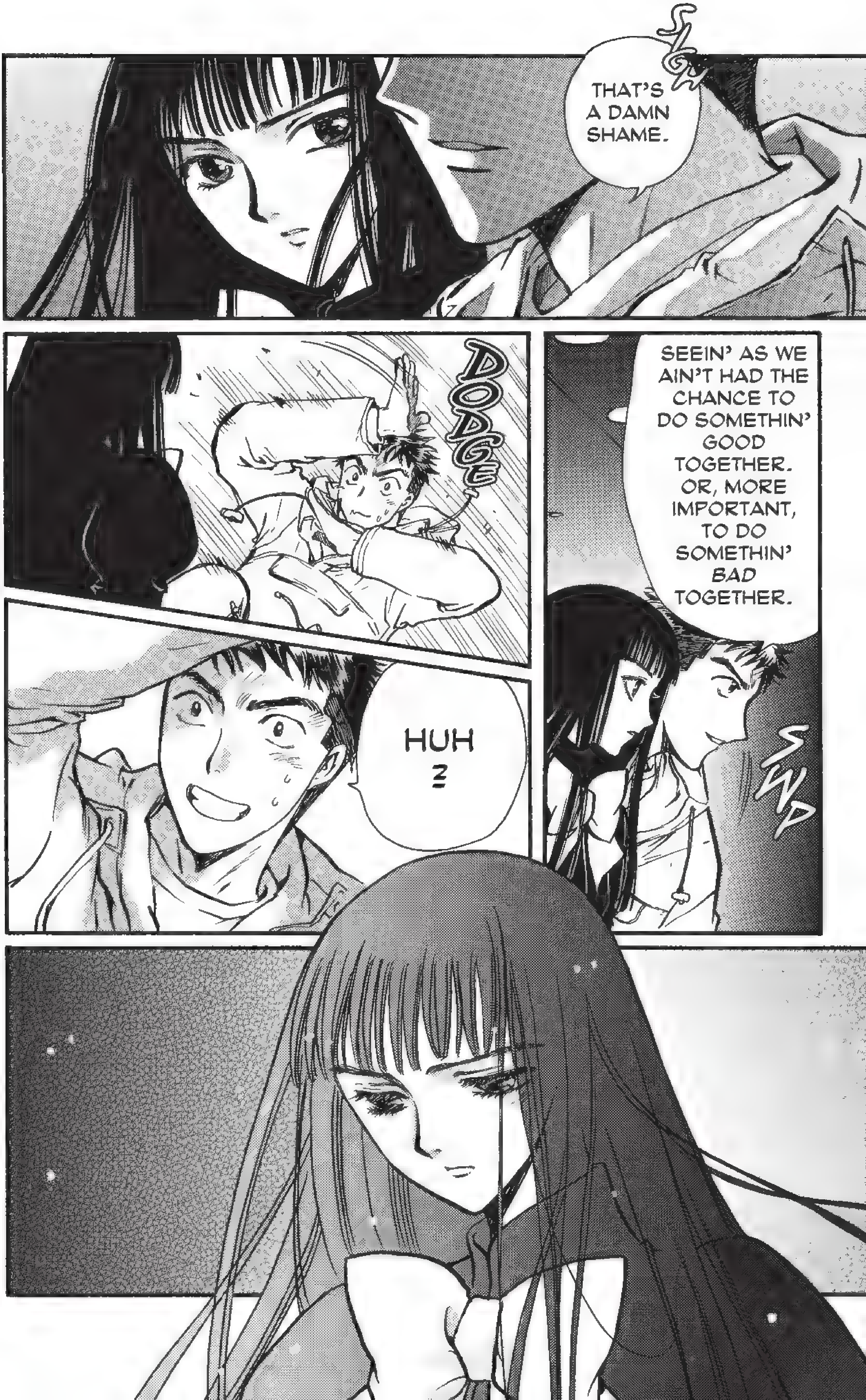

SLOOSH

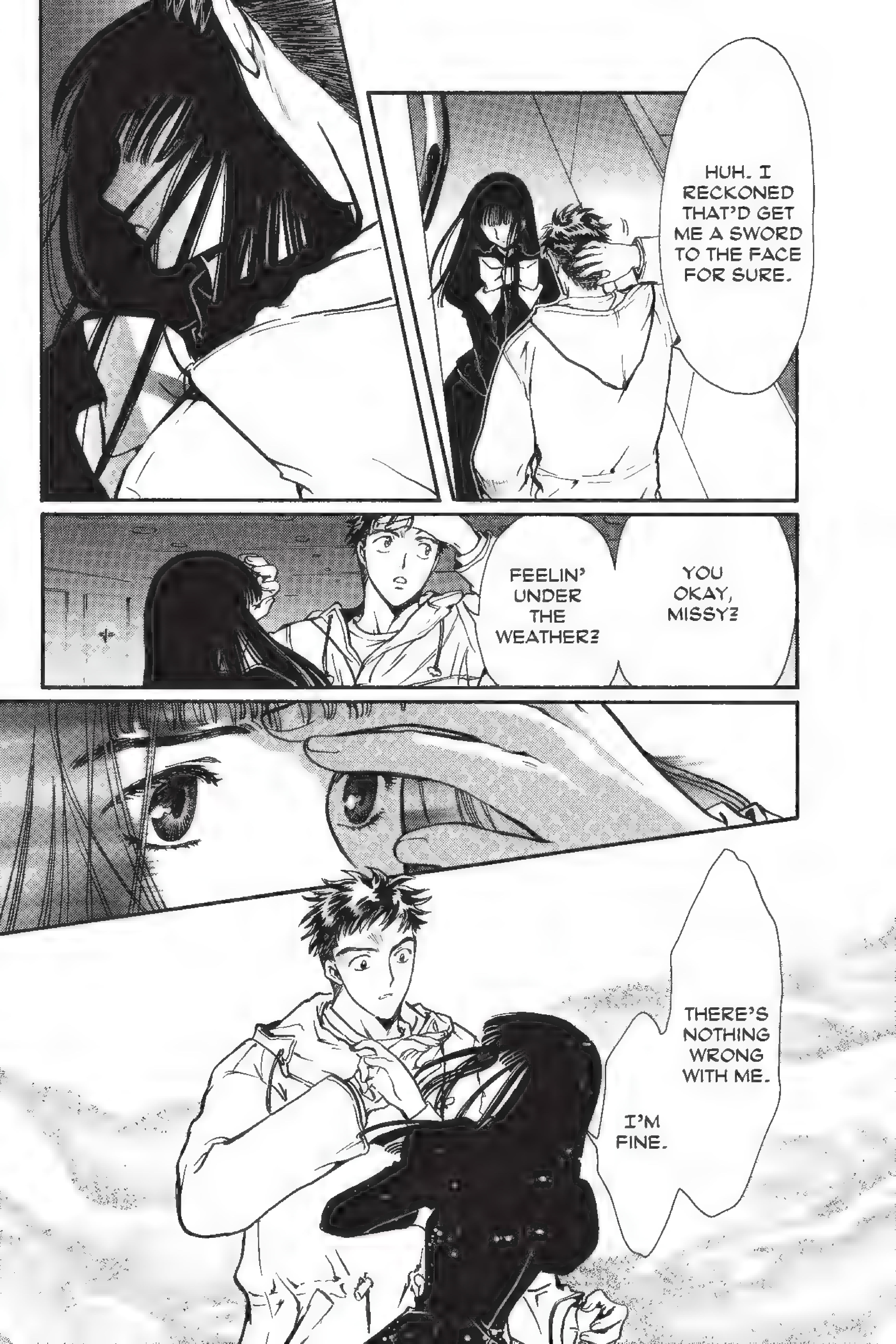

The future is already decided.
Soon...
...as my dreamgazing has foretold, another Dragon of Heaven will die.
A true death, this time.

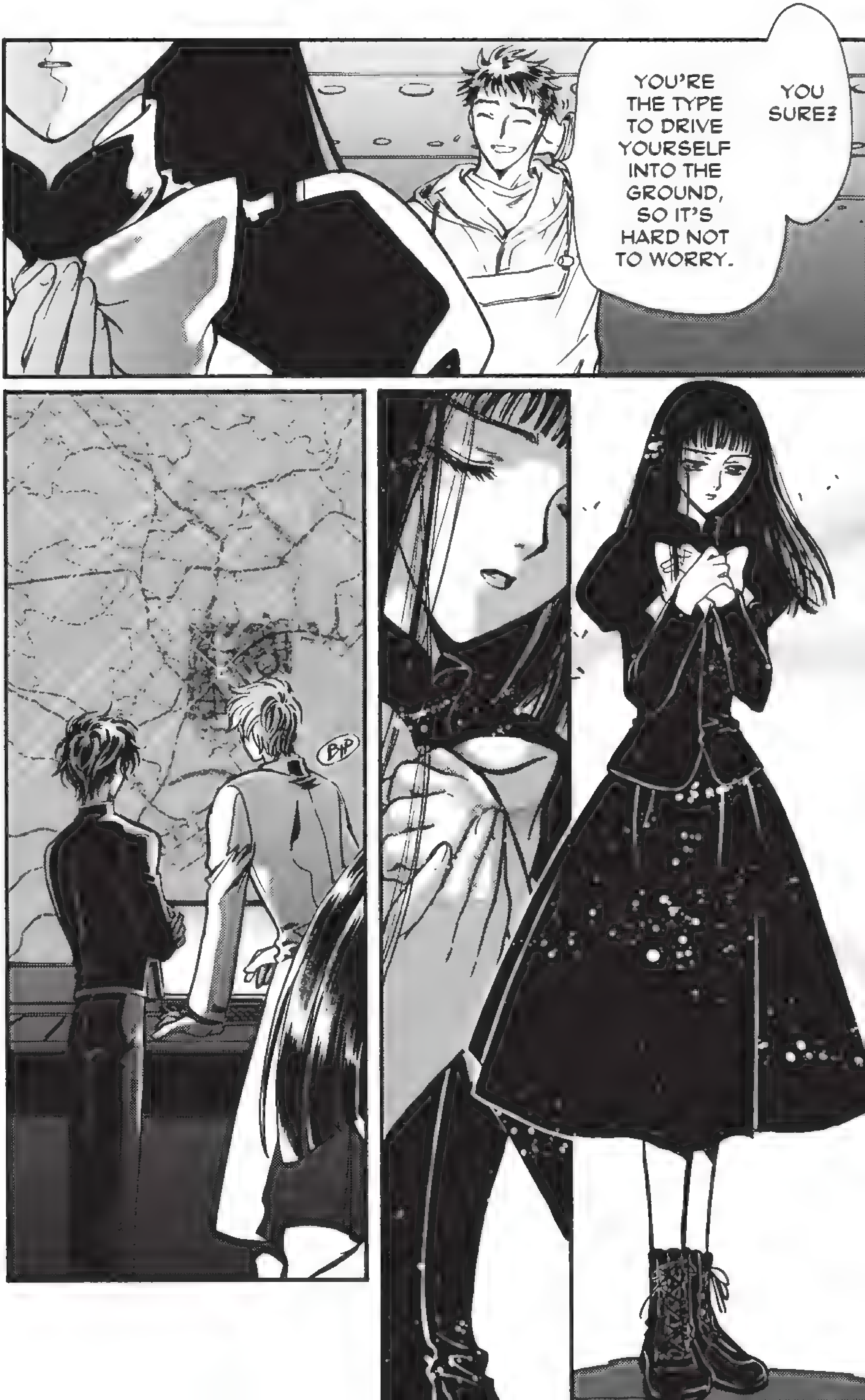

BIP
WHRRRR
BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP

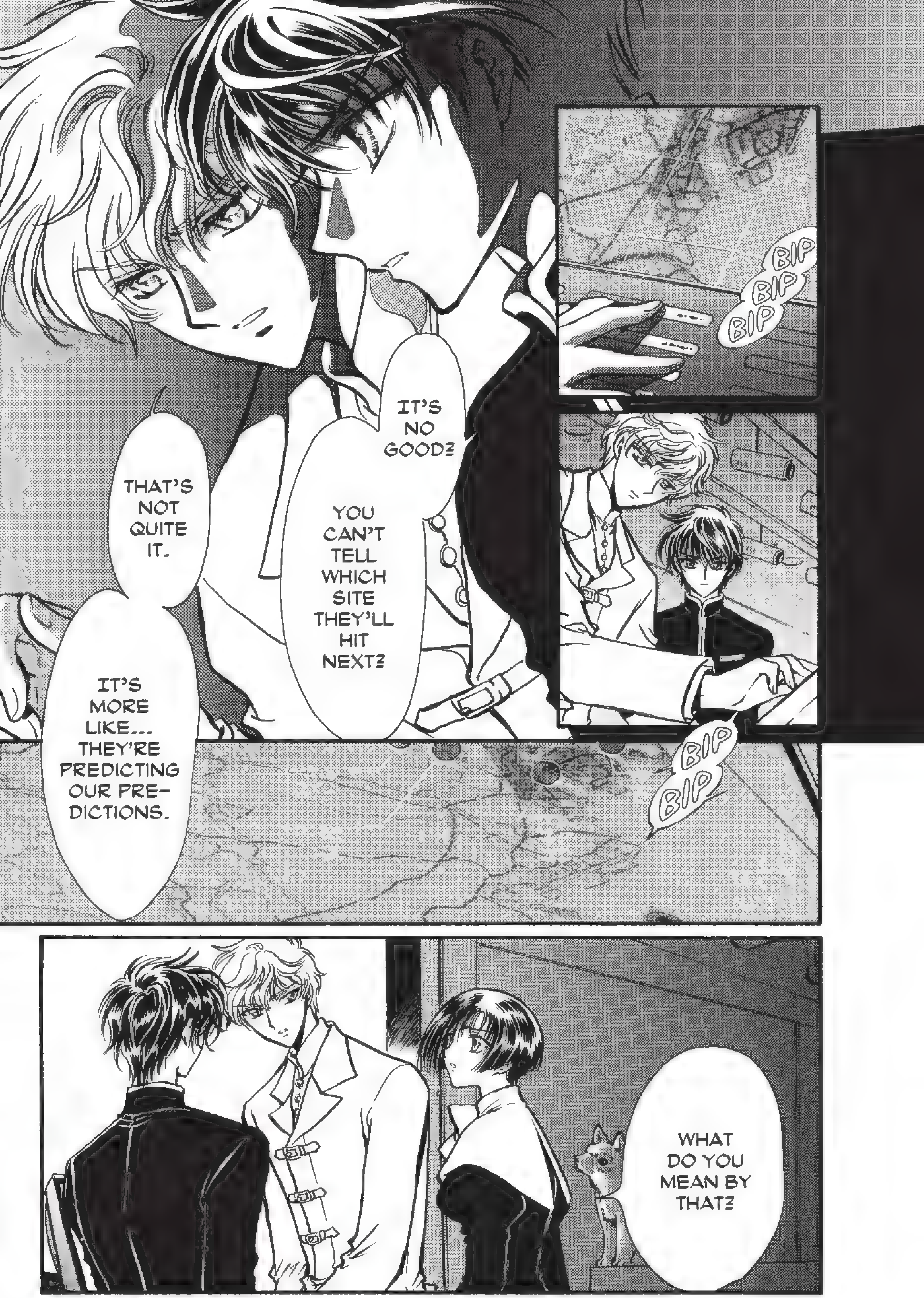

BIP
A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED FOR ALL OF TOKYO.
PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN WORST HIT BY THE EARTHQUAKES HAVE BEEN EVACUATED FROM THE CITY.
THIS IS AWFUL...

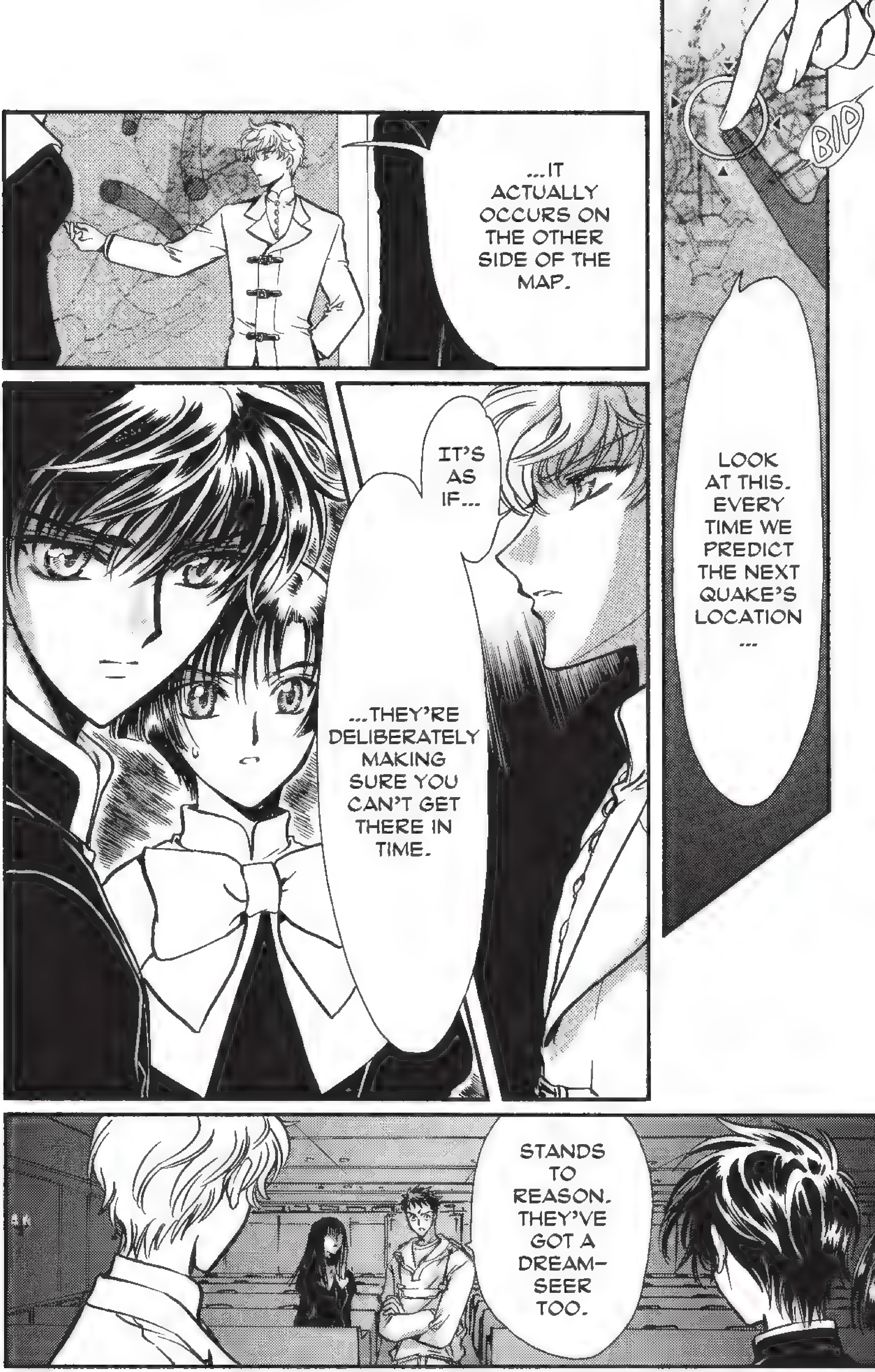

WHAT ABOUT THE CLAMP ACADEMY STUDENTS?
THEY'LL STAY ON CAMPUS.
THEY'RE SAFER HERE THAN THEY WOULD BE ANYWHERE ELSE.
THE DRAGONS OF EARTH AIN'T PLAYIN' AROUND ANYMORE.
THEY'RE SERIOUSLY TRYIN' TO WIPE TOKYO OFF THE MAP WITH THOSE QUAKES.
ONCE THE KEKKAI IN TOKYO ARE BROKEN, THE REST WILL GIVE WAY.
THEN ALL OF JAPAN WILL BE DESTROYED.
AND WHEN JAPAN GOES...
...THE REST OF THE WORLD GOES TOO.

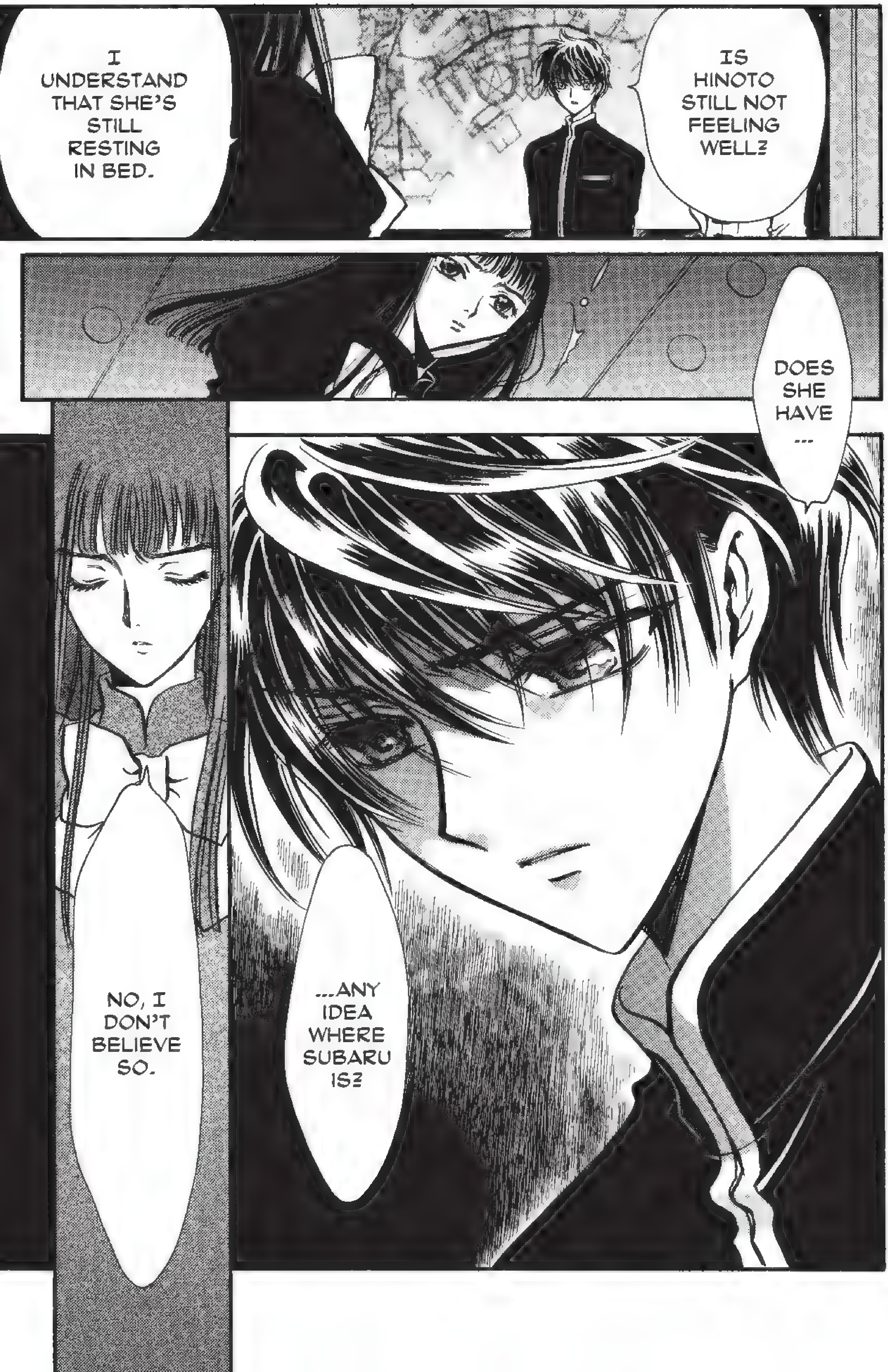

SIGH
THAT'S A DAMN SHAME.
SEEIN' AS WE AIN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO DO SOMETHIN' GOOD TOGETHER. OR, MORE IMPORTANT, TO DO SOMETHIN' *BAD* TOGETHER.
SWP
DODGE
HUH?

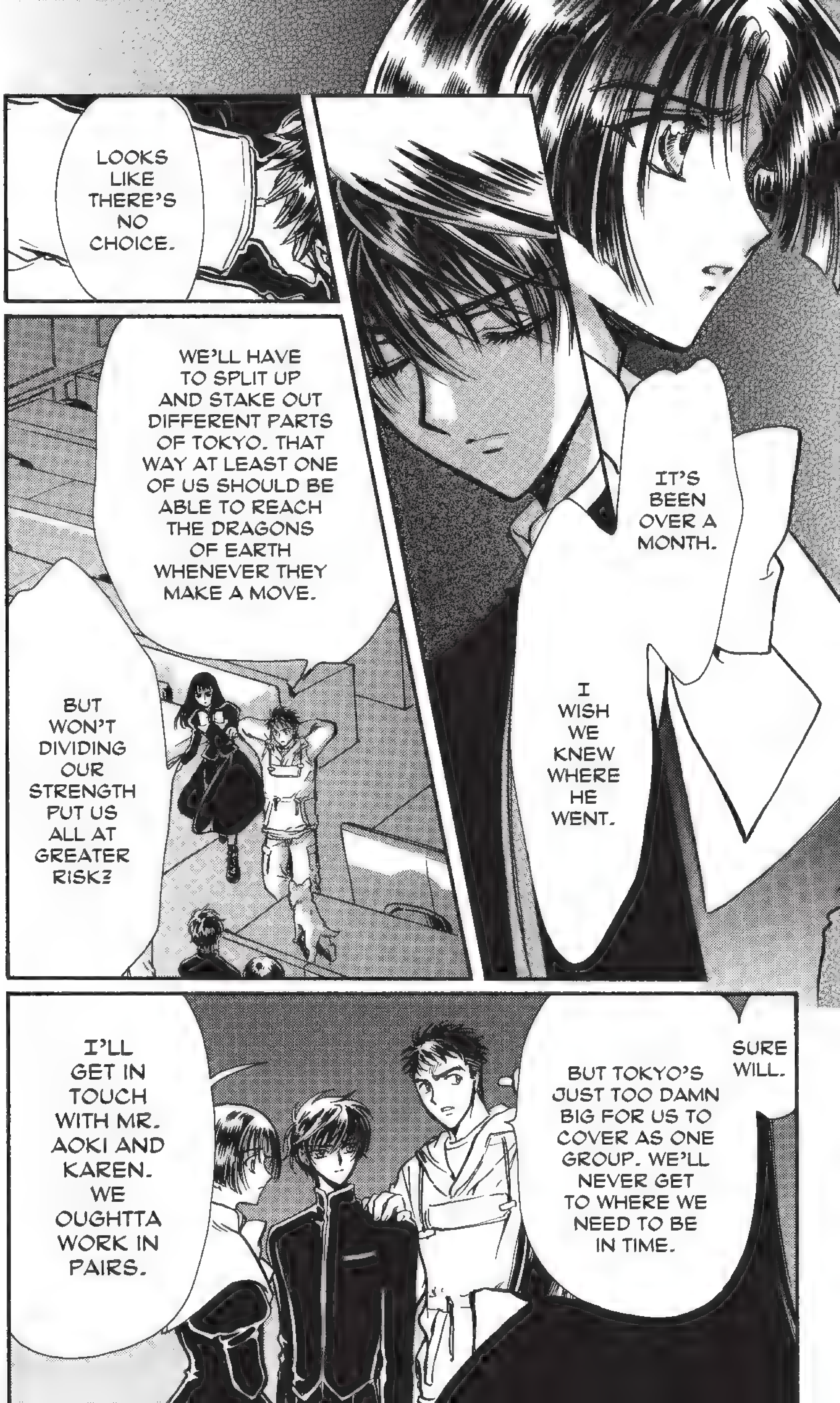

HUH. I RECKONED THAT'D GET ME A SWORD TO THE FACE FOR SURE.
YOU OKAY, MISSY?
FEELIN' UNDER THE WEATHER?
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME.
I'M FINE.

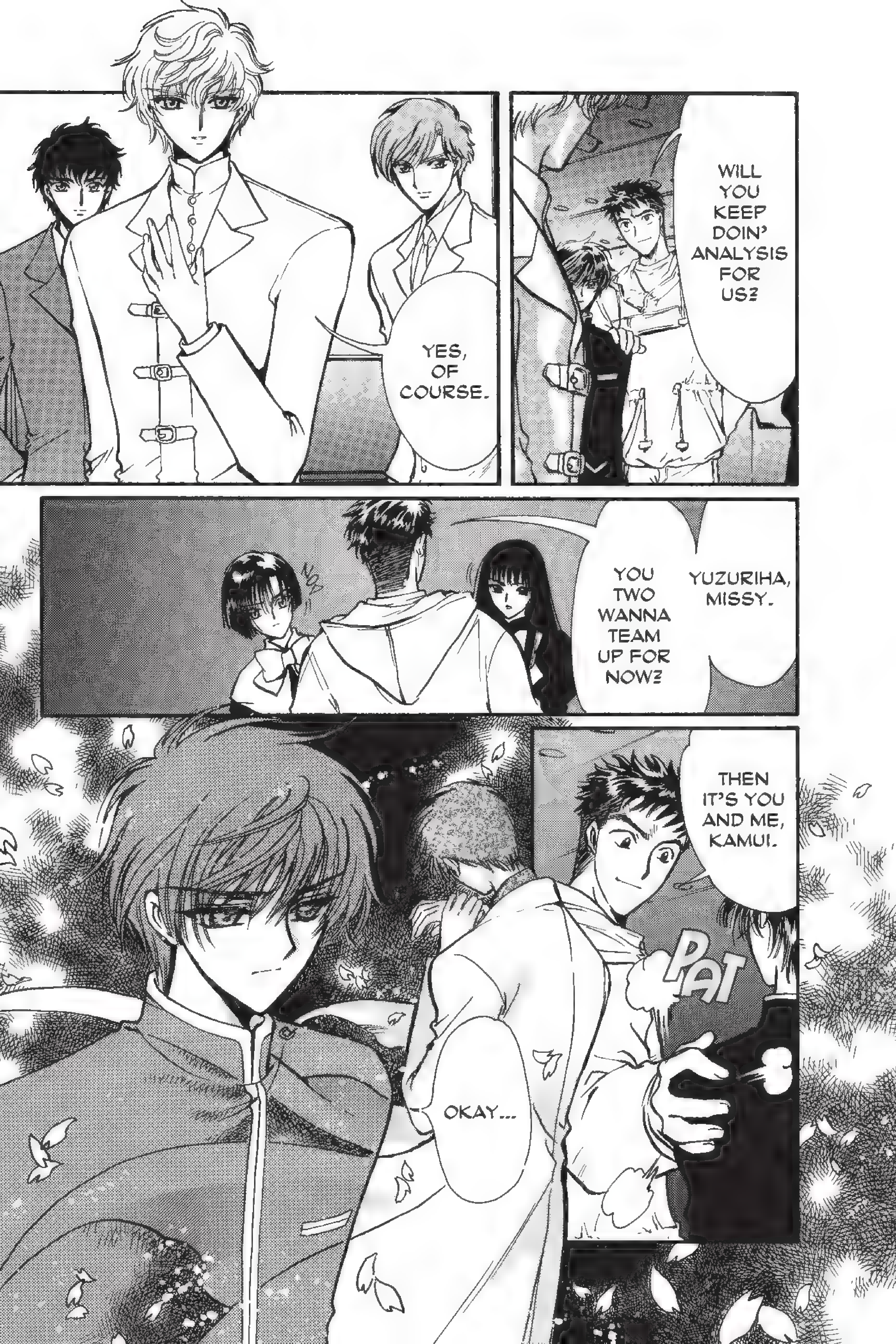

YOU SURE?
YOU'RE THE TYPE TO DRIVE YOURSELF INTO THE GROUND, SO IT'S HARD NOT TO WORRY.
BIP

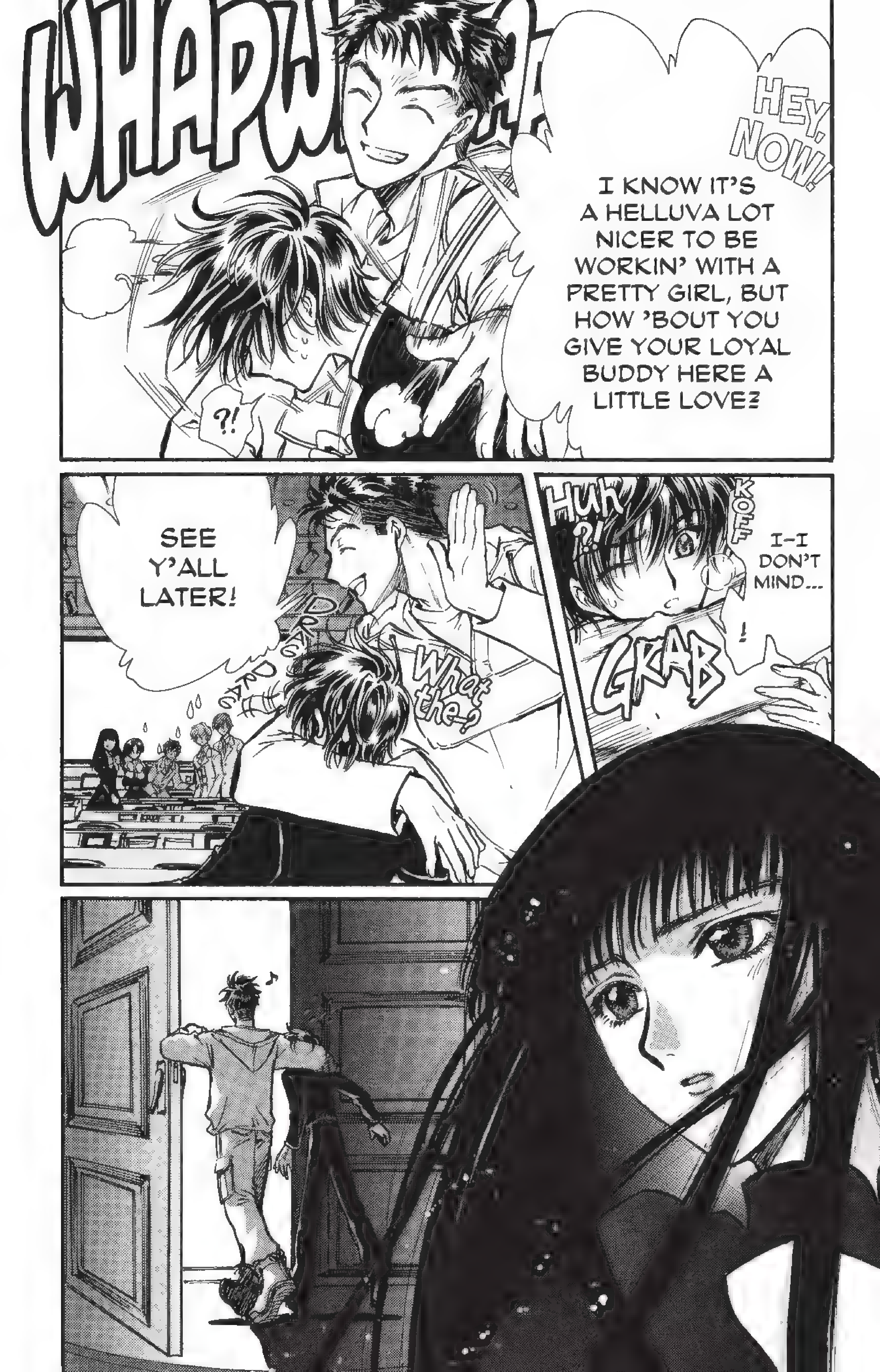

BIP BIP BIP
IT'S NO GOOD?
YOU CAN'T TELL WHICH SITE THEY'LL HIT NEXT?
BIP BIP
THAT'S NOT QUITE IT.
IT'S MORE LIKE... THEY'RE PREDICTING OUR PREDICTIONS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

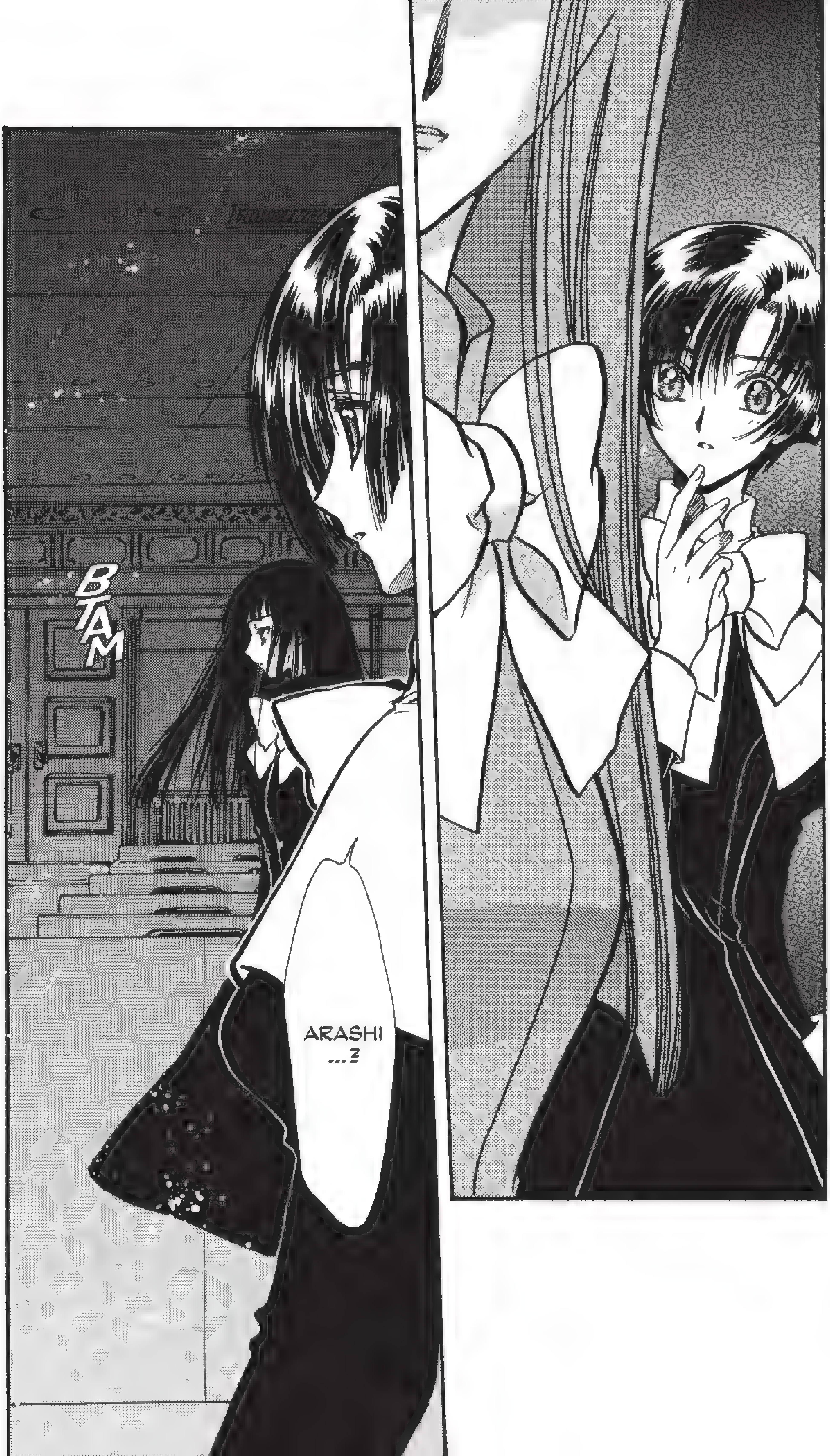

BIP
LOOK AT THIS. EVERY TIME WE PREDICT THE NEXT QUAKE'S LOCATION...
...IT ACTUALLY OCCURS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MAP.
IT'S AS IF...
...THEY'RE DELIBERATELY MAKING SURE YOU CAN'T GET THERE IN TIME.
STANDS TO REASON. THEY'VE GOT A DREAM-SEER TOO.

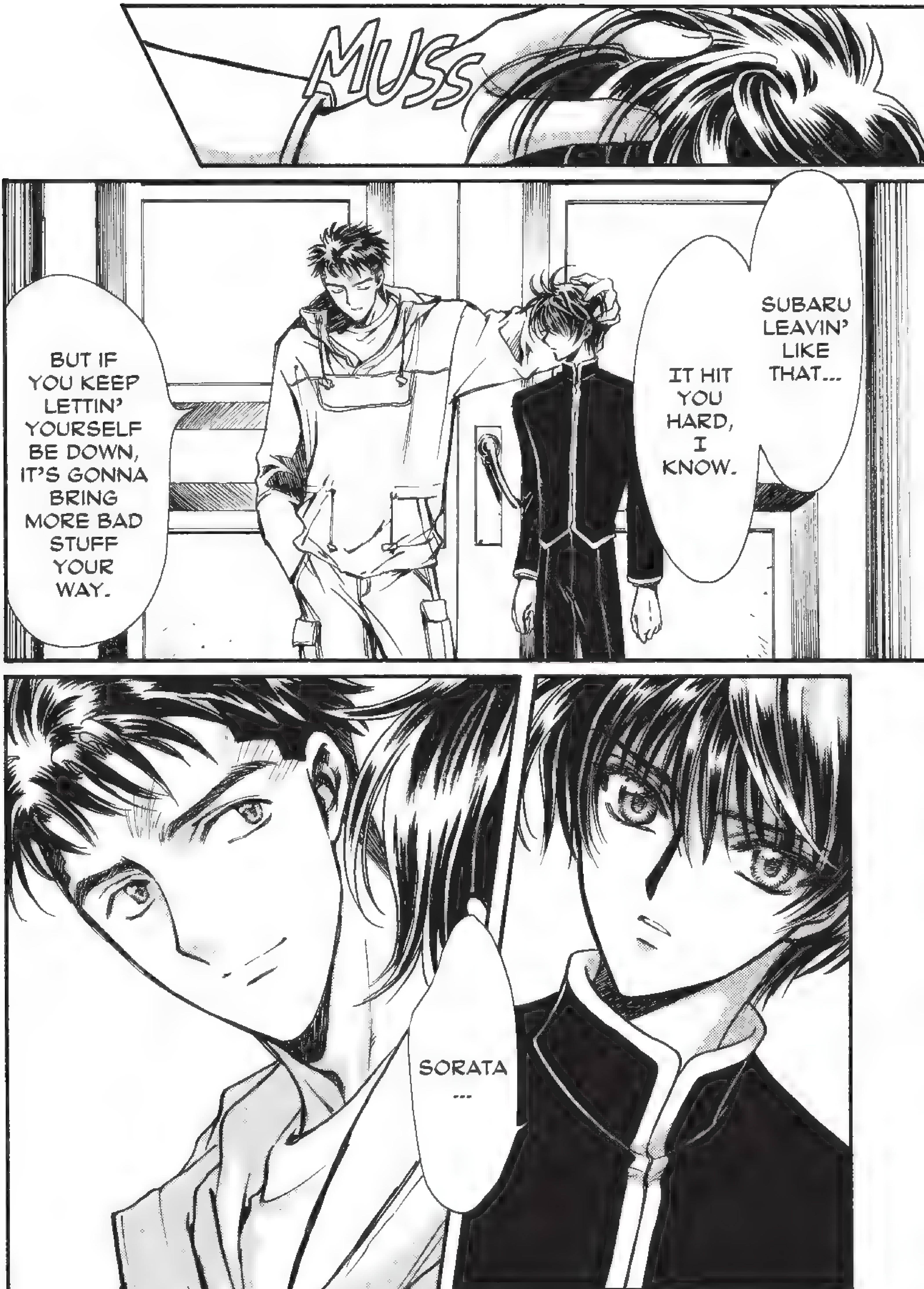

IS HINOTO STILL NOT FEELING WELL?
I UNDERSTAND THAT SHE'S STILL RESTING IN BED.
DOES SHE HAVE...
...ANY IDEA WHERE SUBARU IS?
NO, I DON'T BELIEVE SO.

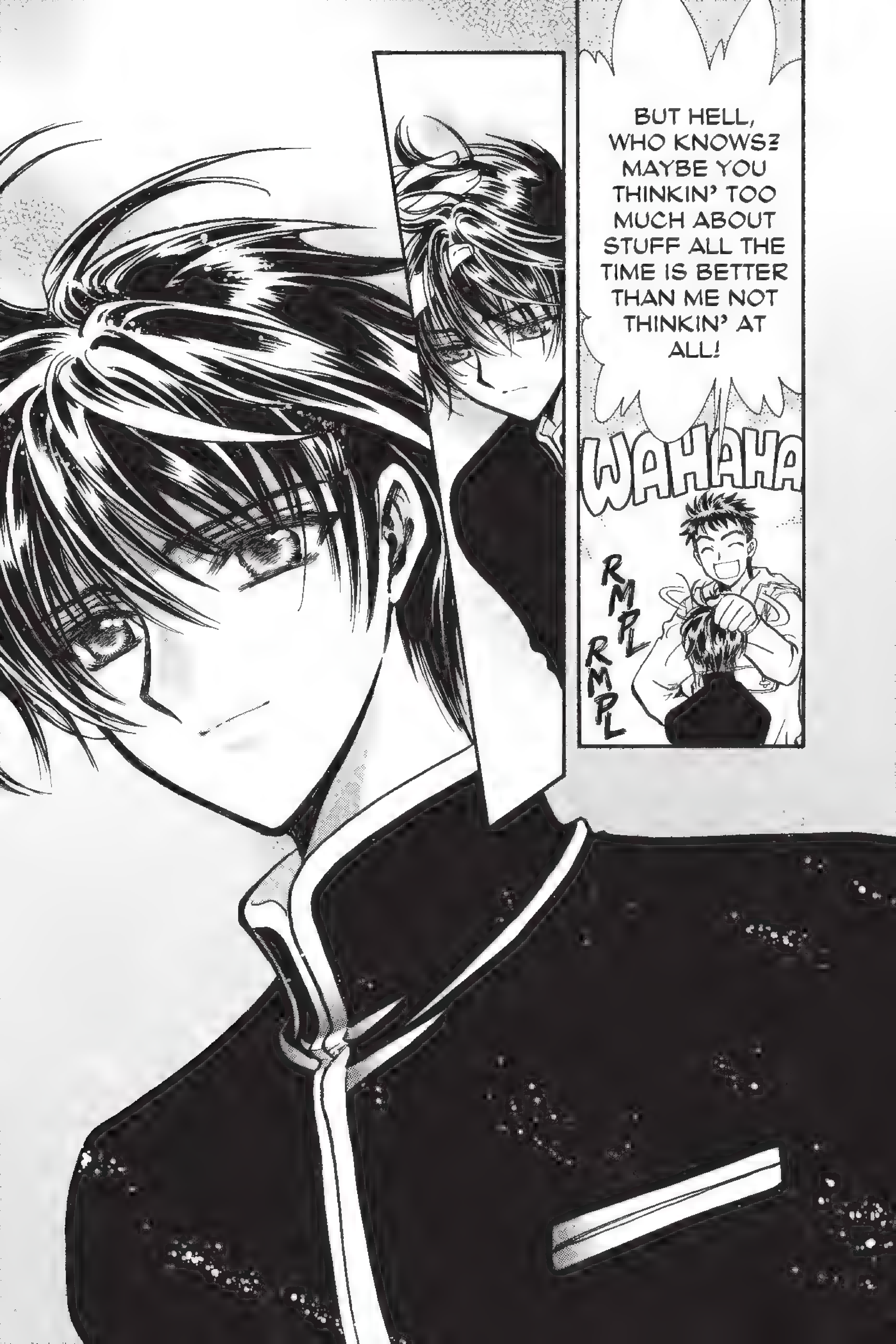

IT'S BEEN OVER A MONTH.
I WISH WE KNEW WHERE HE WENT.
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO CHOICE.
WE'LL HAVE TO SPLIT UP AND STAKE OUT DIFFERENT PARTS OF TOKYO. THAT WAY AT LEAST ONE OF US SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH THE DRAGONS OF EARTH WHENEVER THEY MAKE A MOVE.
BUT WON'T DIVIDING OUR STRENGTH PUT US ALL AT GREATER RISK?
SURE WILL.
BUT TOKYO'S JUST TOO DAMN BIG FOR US TO COVER AS ONE GROUP. WE'LL NEVER GET TO WHERE WE NEED TO BE IN TIME.
I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH MR. AOKI AND KAREN. WE OUGHTTA WORK IN PAIRS.

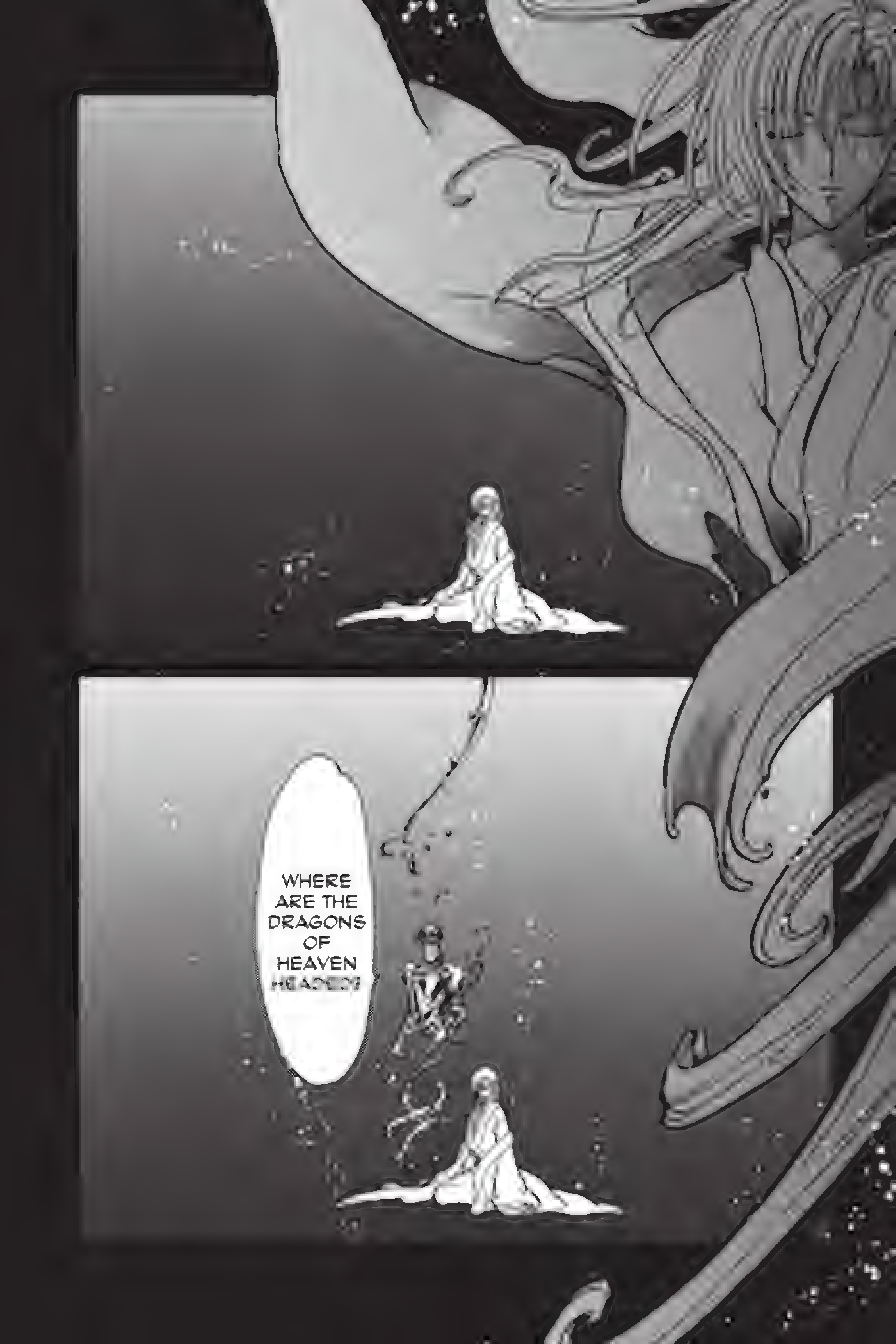

WILL YOU KEEP DOIN' ANALYSIS FOR US?
YES, OF COURSE.
YUZURIHA, MISSY.
YOU TWO WANNA TEAM UP FOR NOW?
THEN IT'S YOU AND ME, KAMUI.
PAT
OKAY...

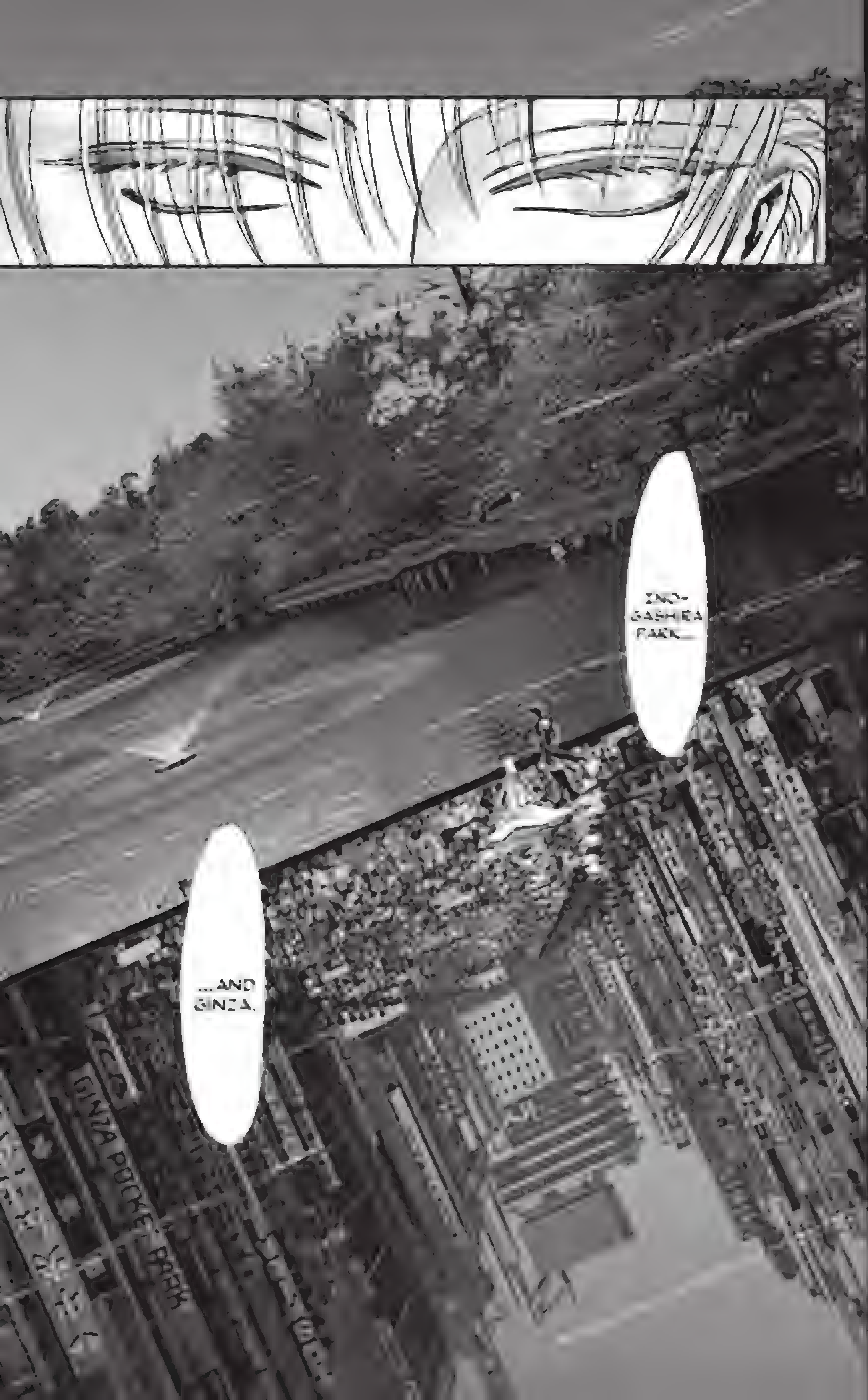

WHAPW
HEY, NOW!!
I KNOW IT'S A HELLUVA LOT NICER TO BE WORKIN' WITH A PRETTY GIRL, BUT HOW 'BOUT YOU GIVE YOUR LOYAL BUDDY HERE A LITTLE LOVE?
?!
KOFF
HUH ?!
I-I DON'T MIND...
!
GRAB
SEE Y'ALL LATER!
What the-?
DRAG DRAG

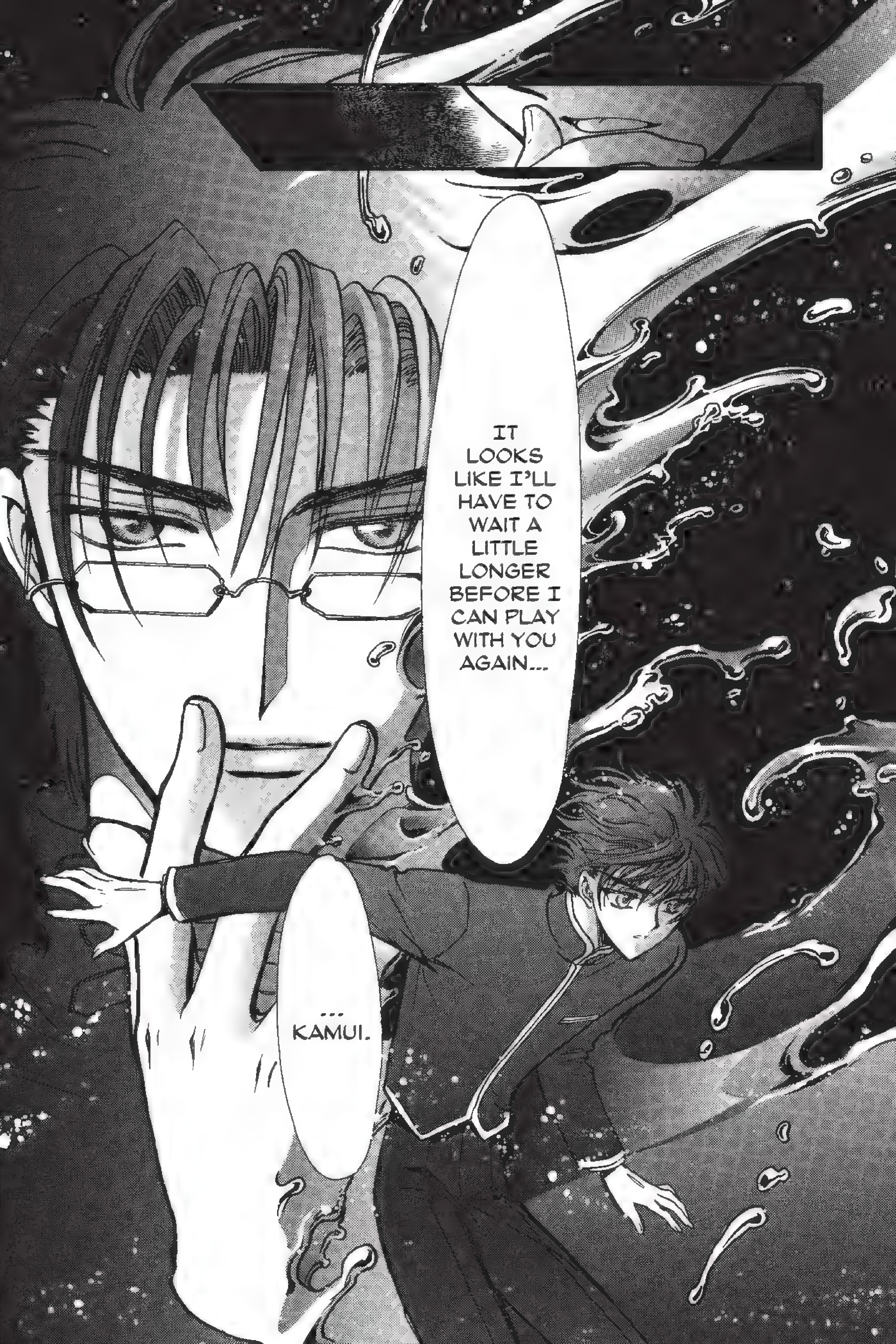

BTAM
ARASHI ...?

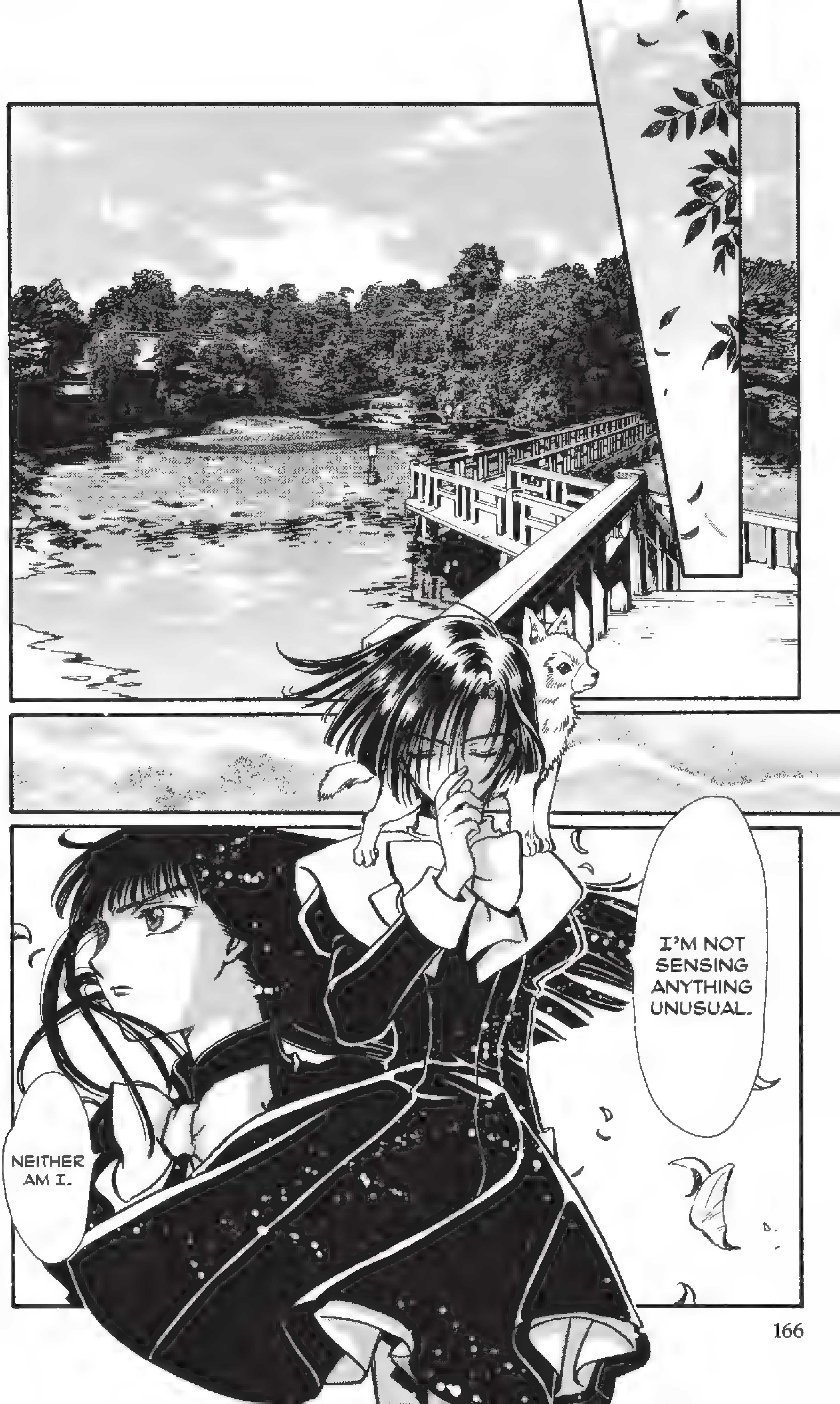

MUSS
SUBARU LEAVIN' LIKE THAT...
IT HIT YOU HARD, I KNOW.
BUT IF YOU KEEP LETTIN' YOURSELF BE DOWN, IT'S GONNA BRING MORE BAD STUFF YOUR WAY.
SORATA ...

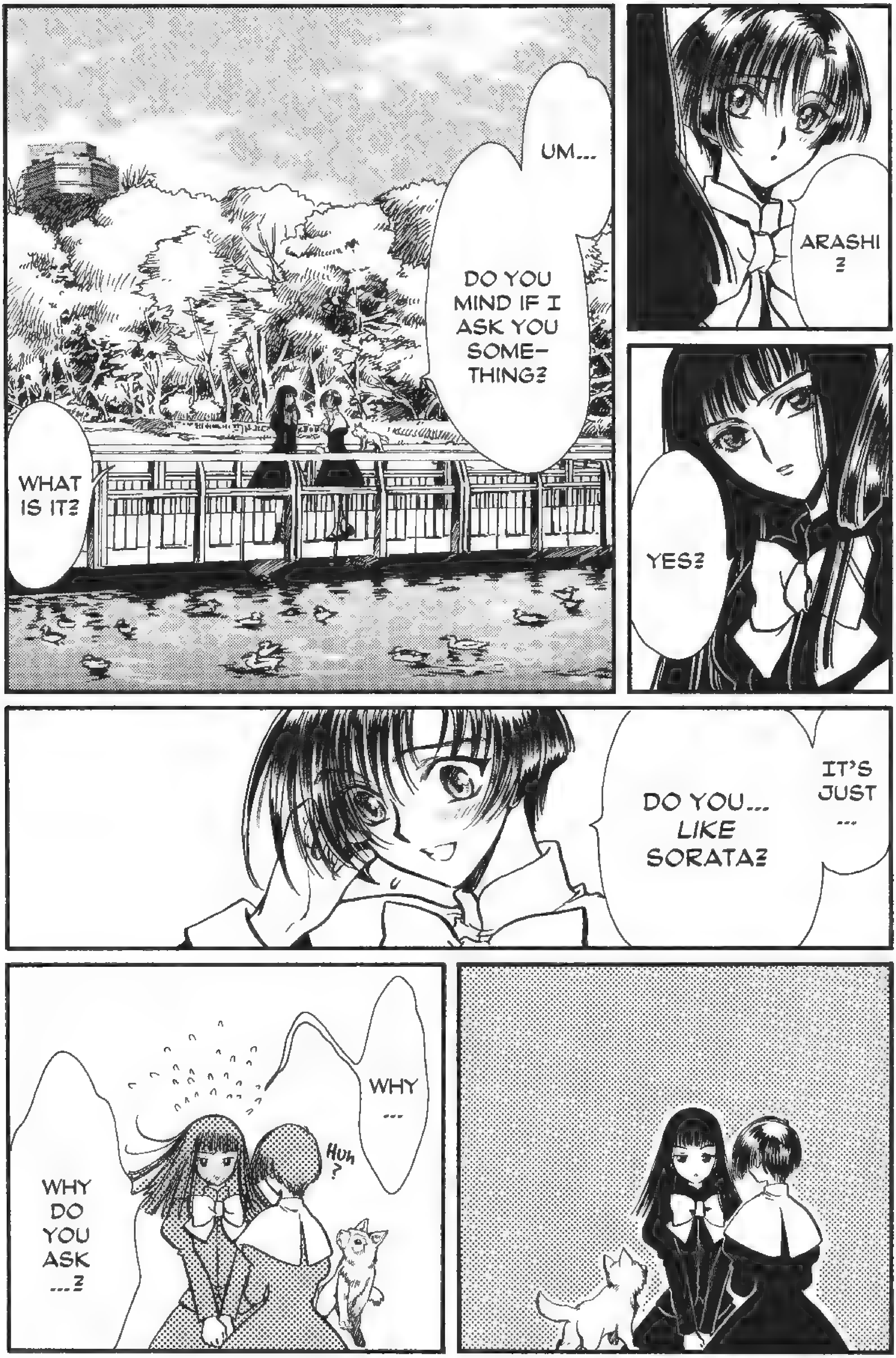

BUT HELL, WHO KNOWS? MAYBE YOU THINKIN' TOO MUCH ABOUT STUFF ALL THE TIME IS BETTER THAN ME NOT THINKIN' AT ALL!
WAHAHA
RMPL RMPL

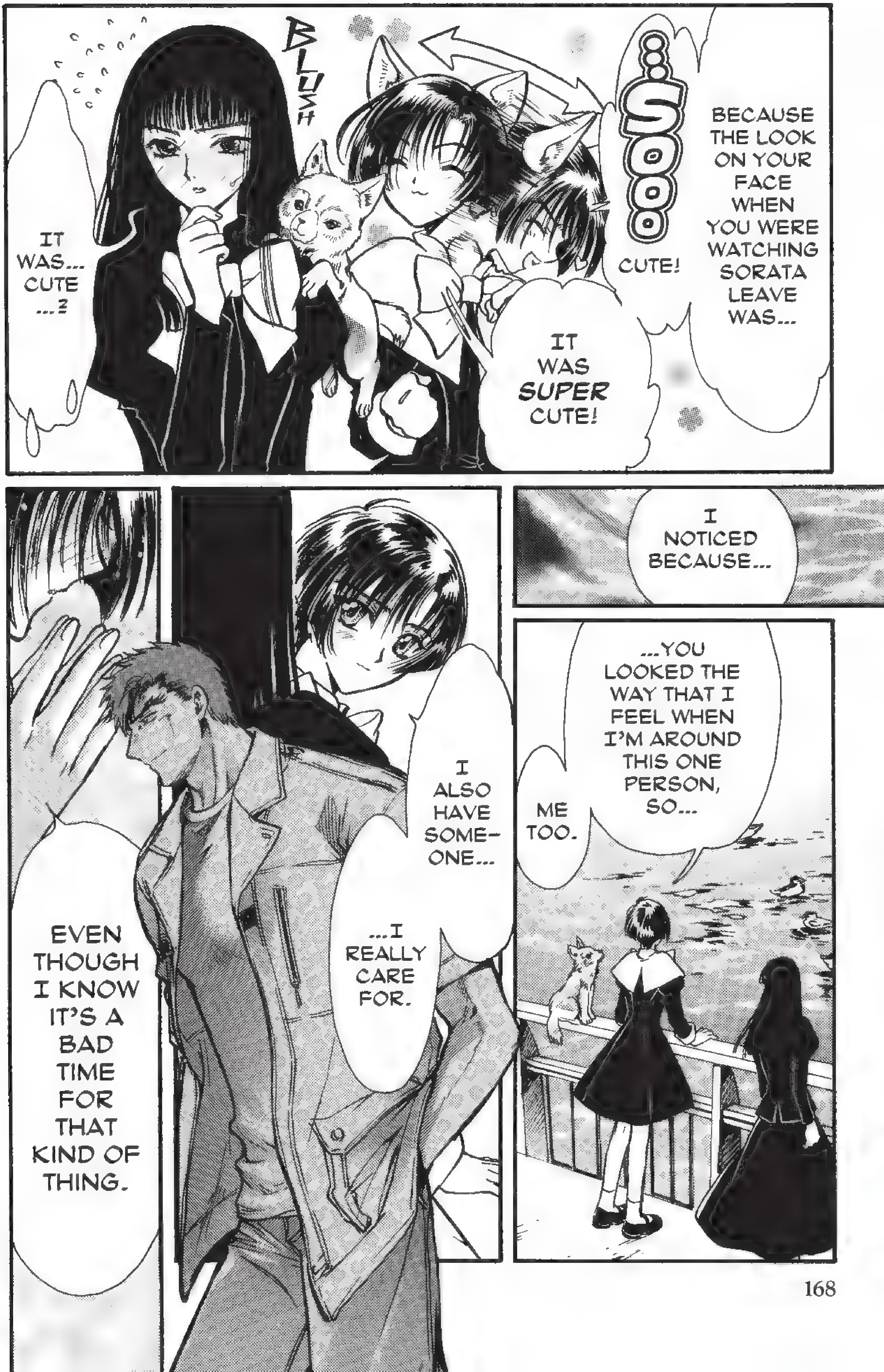

WHERE ARE THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN HEADED?

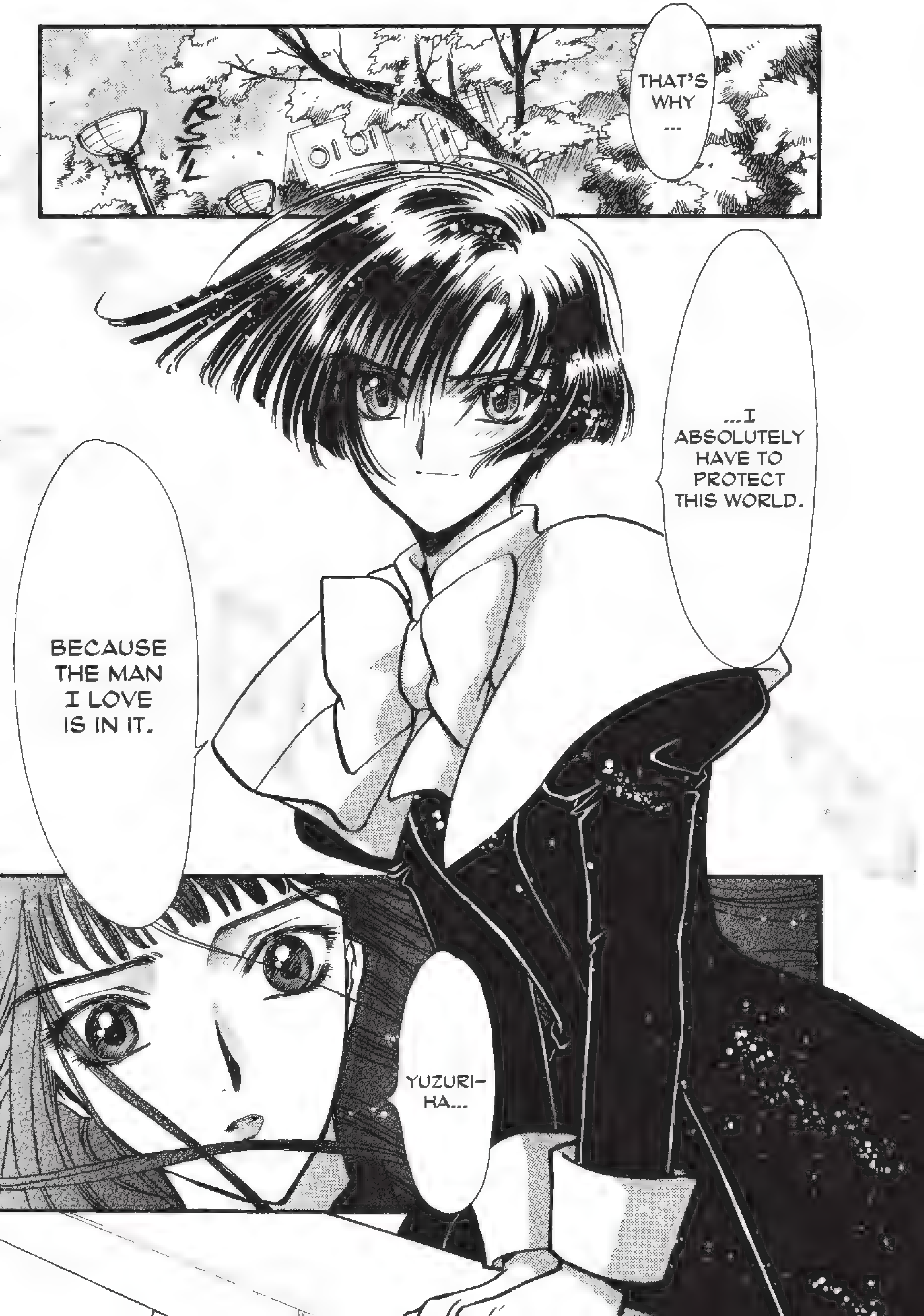

INO-GASHIRA PARK...
...AND GINZA.
GINZA POCKET PARK

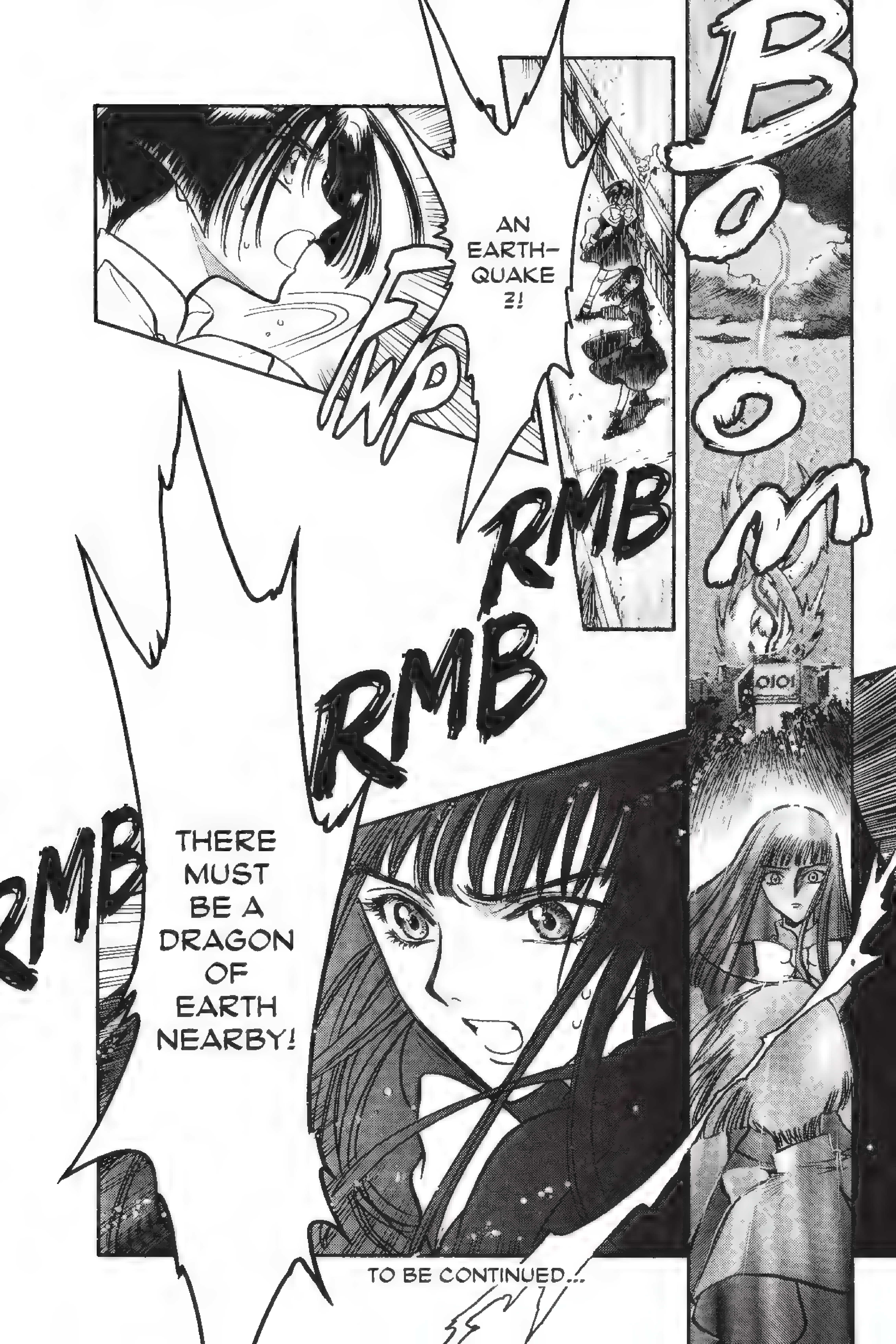

IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER BEFORE I CAN PLAY WITH YOU AGAIN...
... KAMUI.


I'M NOT SENSING ANYTHING UNUSUAL.
NEITHER AM I.


ARASHI?
YES?
UM...
DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S JUST...
DO YOU... *LIKE* SORATA?
WHY...
HUH?
WHY DO YOU ASK...?


BECAUSE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE WHEN YOU WERE WATCHING SORATA LEAVE WAS...
SOOO CUTE!
IT WAS *SUPER* CUTE!
BLUSH
IT WAS... CUTE ...?
I NOTICED BECAUSE...
...YOU LOOKED THE WAY THAT I FEEL WHEN I'M AROUND THIS ONE PERSON, SO...
ME TOO.
I ALSO HAVE SOMEONE...
...I REALLY CARE FOR.
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW IT'S A BAD TIME FOR THAT KIND OF THING.


THAT'S WHY ...
RSTL
...I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO PROTECT THIS WORLD.
BECAUSE THE MAN I LOVE IS IN IT.
YUZURIHA...

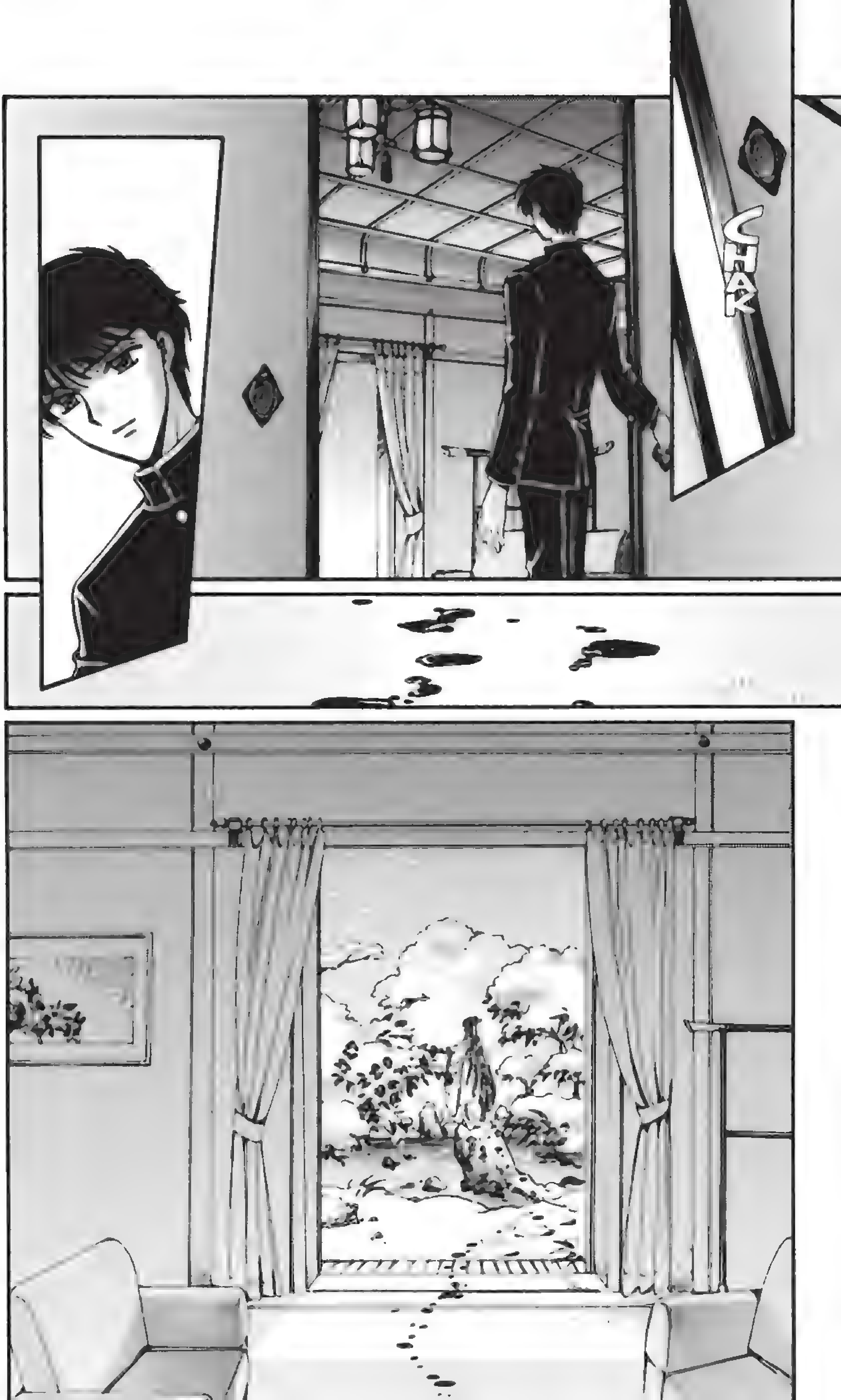

BOOOM
AN EARTH-QUAKE?!
TWP
RMB
RMB
RMB
THERE MUST BE A DRAGON OF EARTH NEARBY!

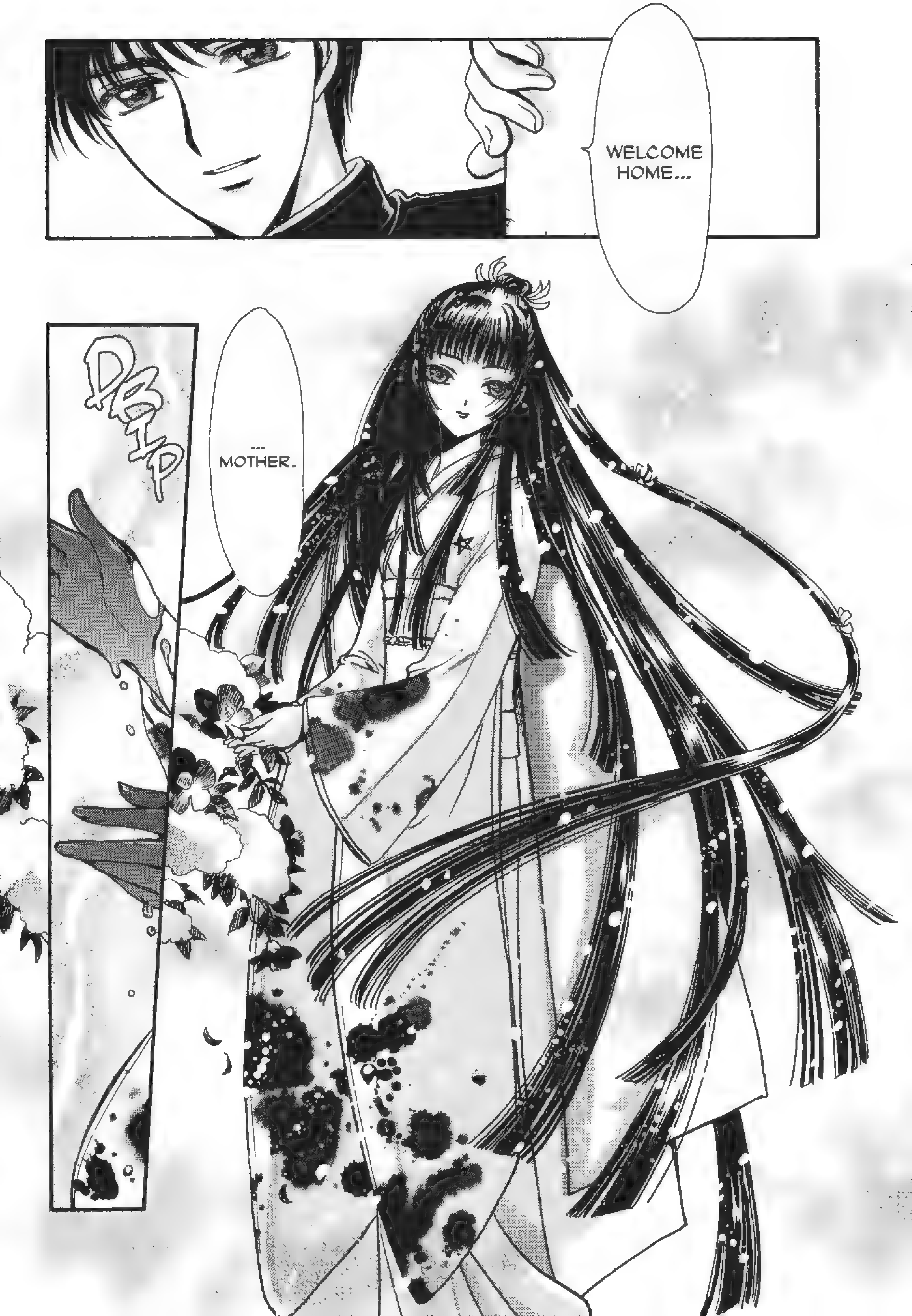
TO BE CONTINUED...

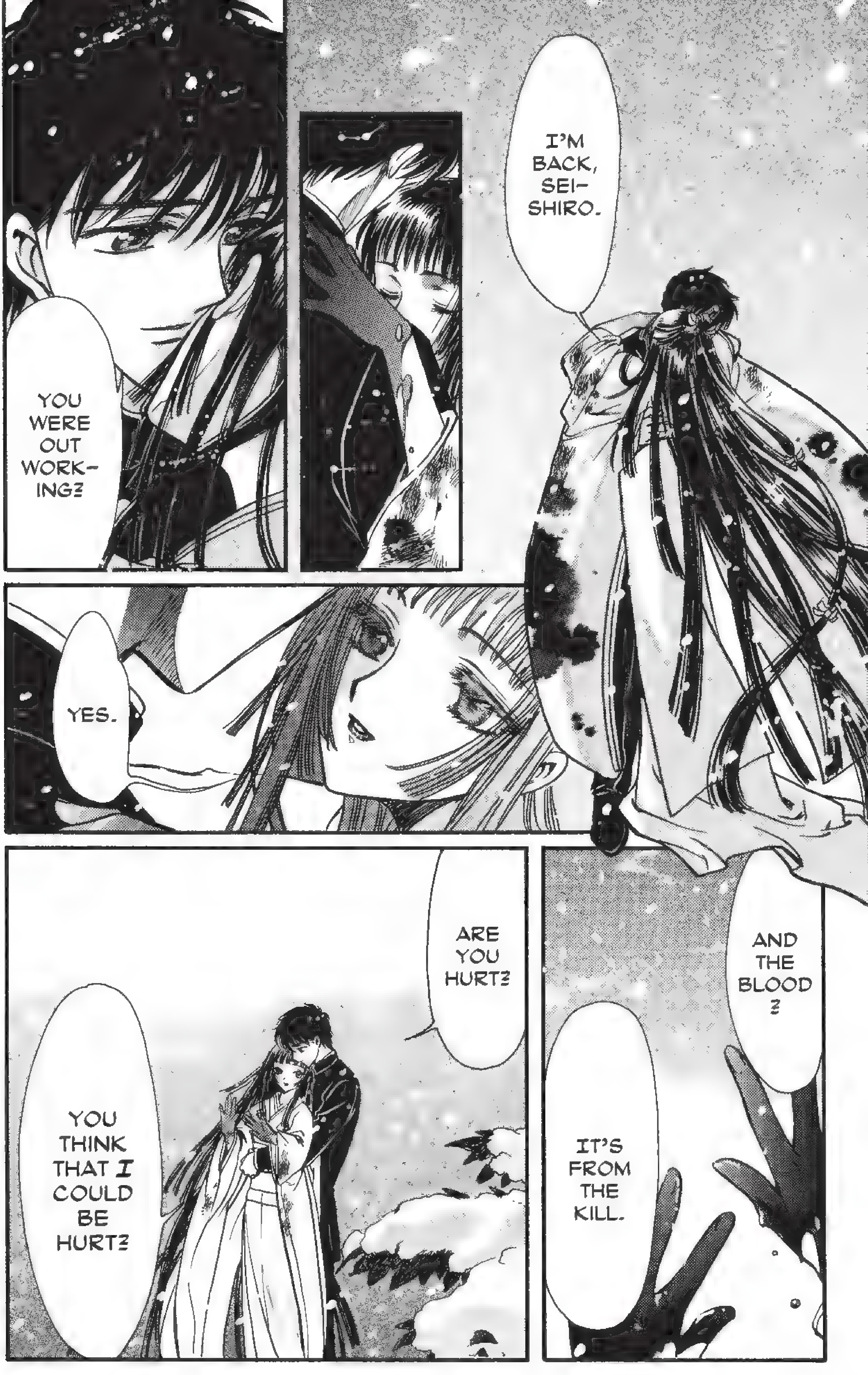
# X

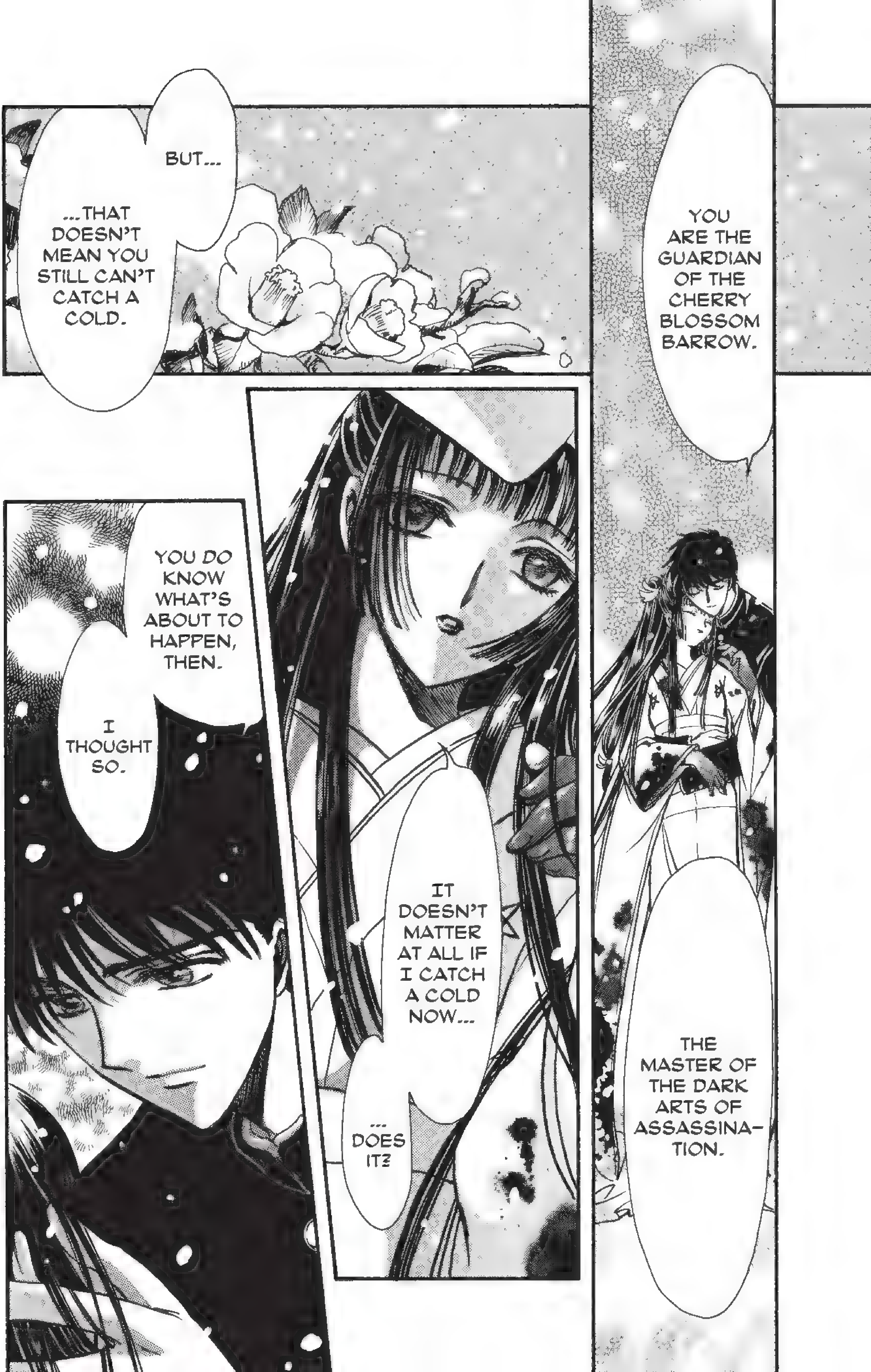
# X

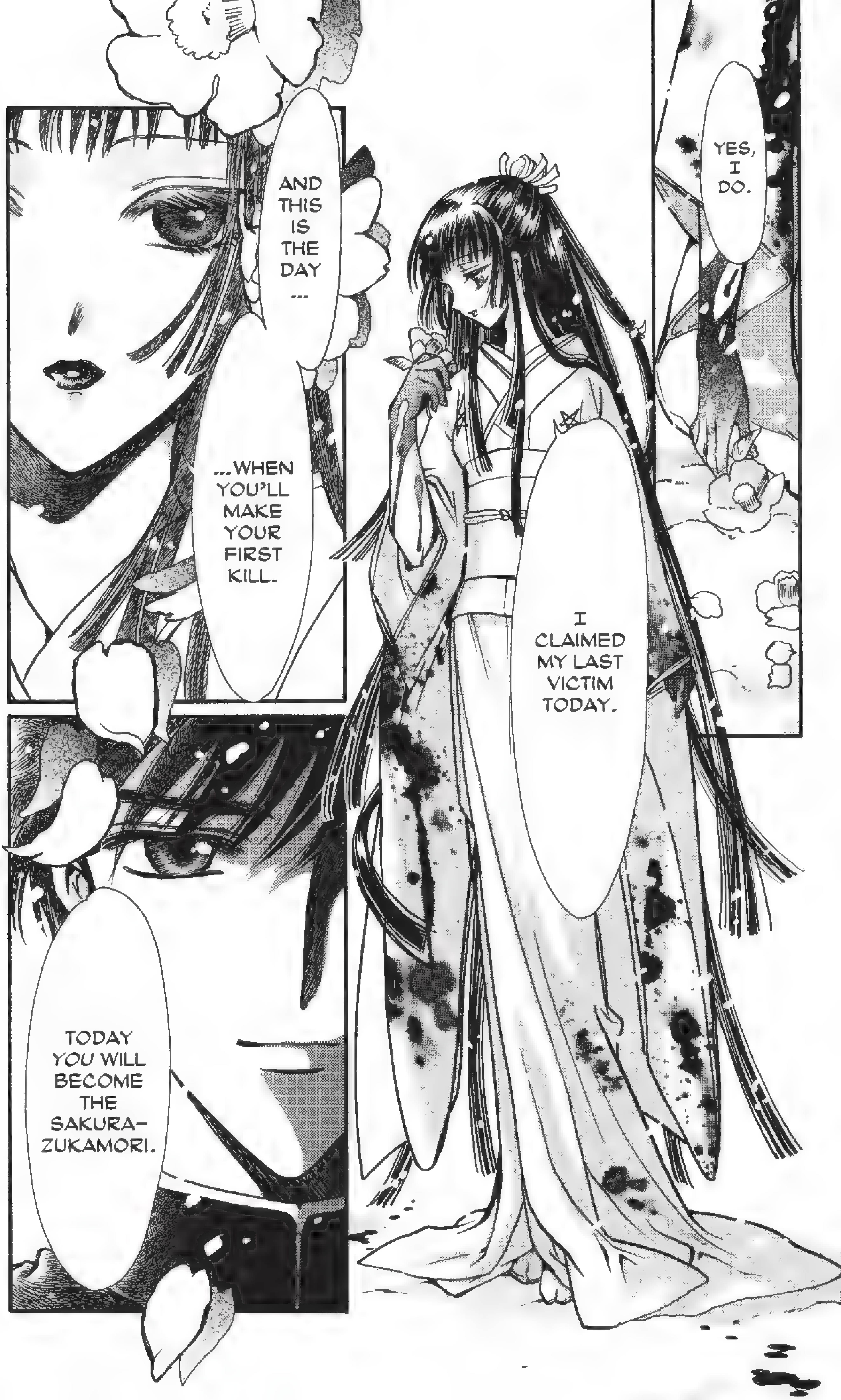
## SEISHIRO SAKURAZUKA

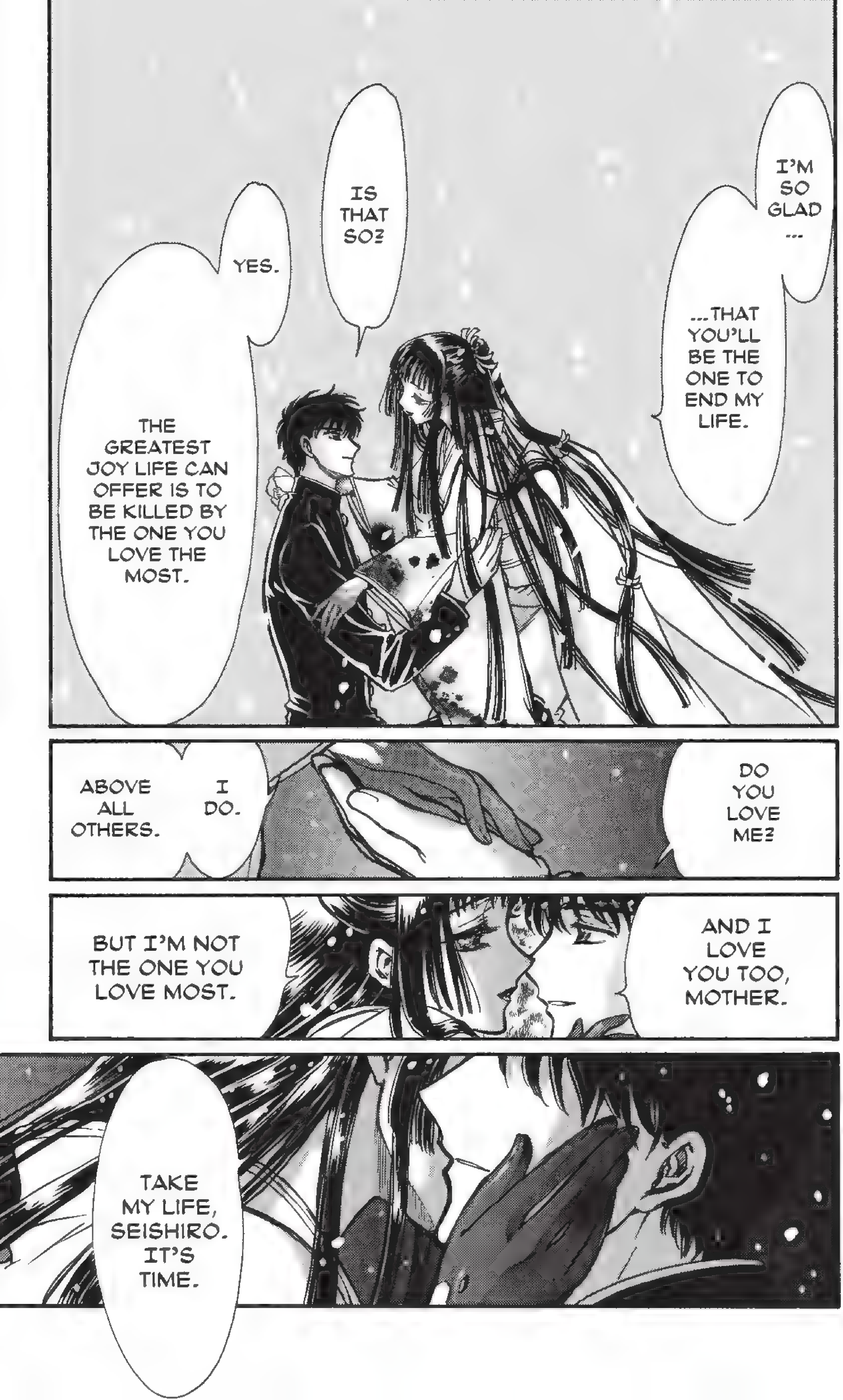

CHAK

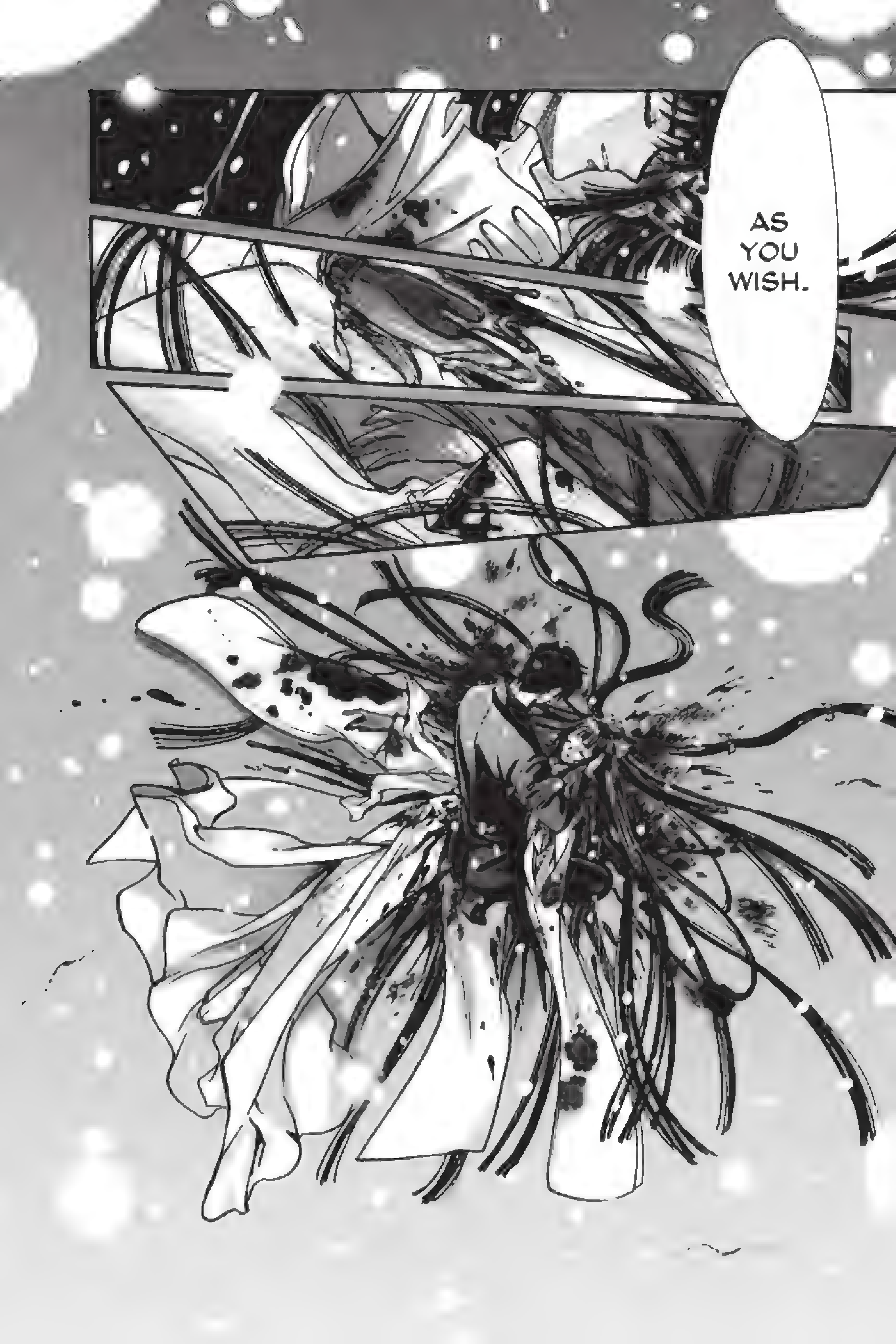

WELCOME HOME...
...MOTHER.
DRIP

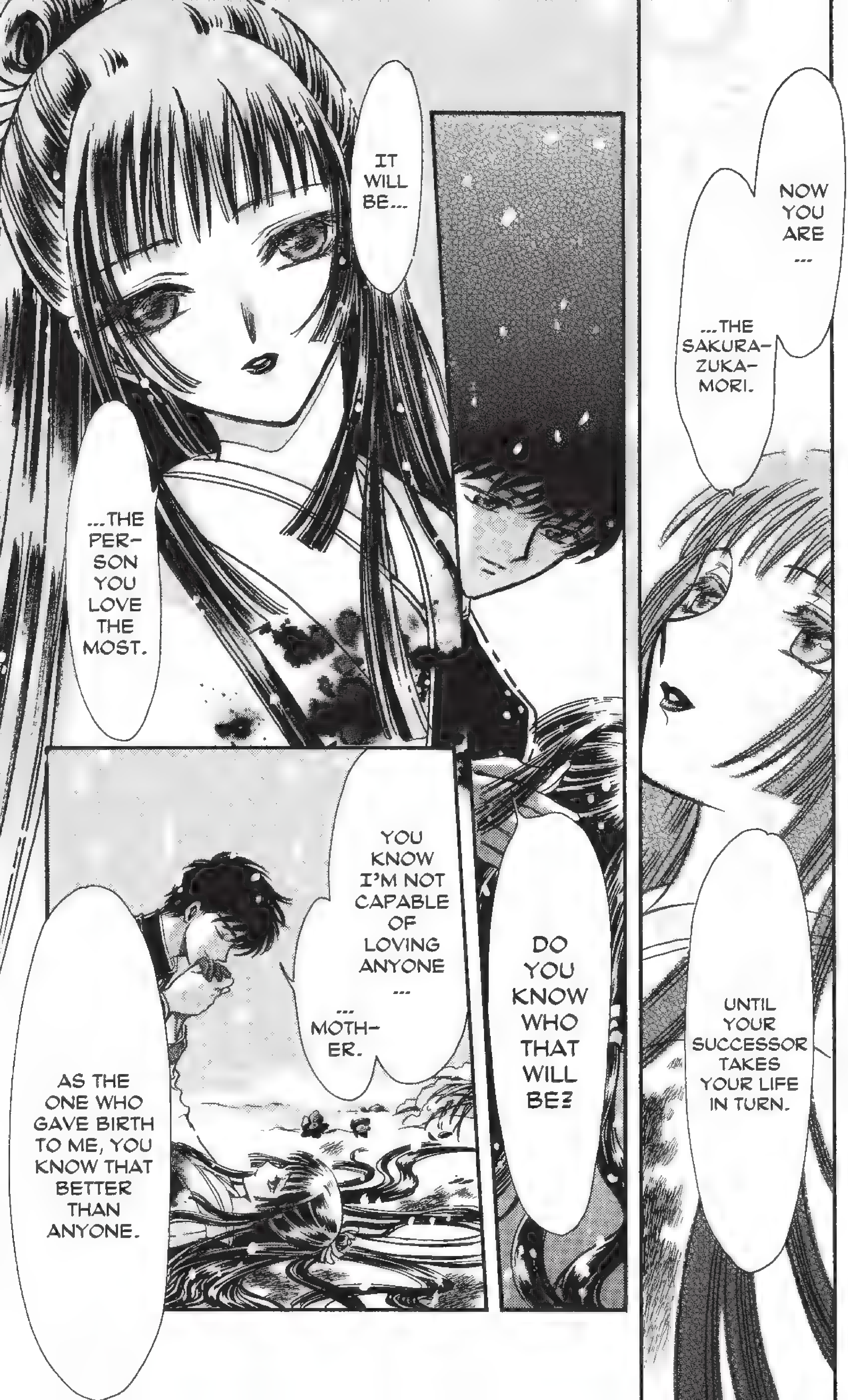

I'M BACK, SEI-SHIRO.
YOU WERE OUT WORKING?
YES.
AND THE BLOOD?
IT'S FROM THE KILL.
ARE YOU HURT?
YOU THINK THAT I COULD BE HURT?

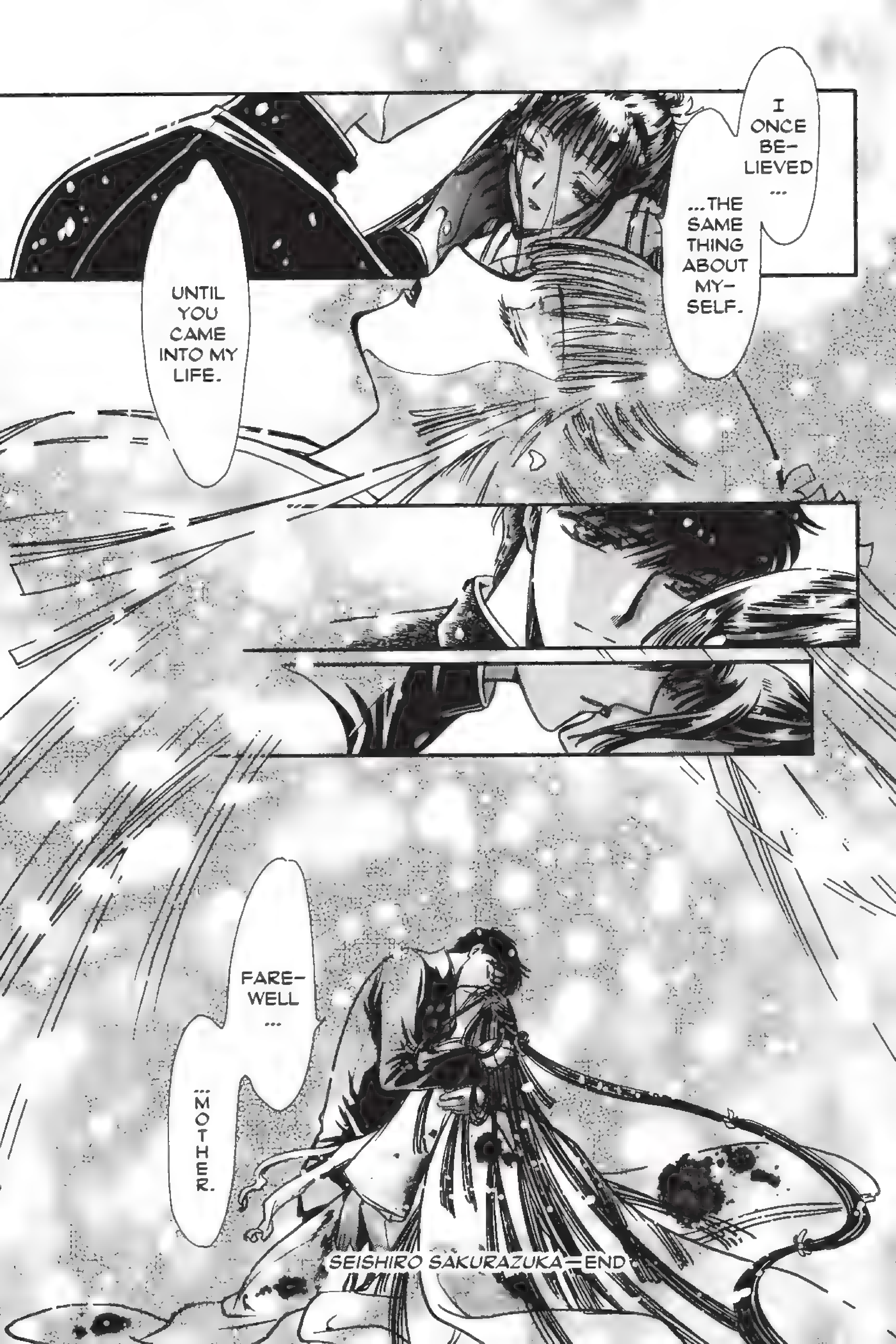

YOU ARE THE GUARDIAN OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM BARROW.
THE MASTER OF THE DARK ARTS OF ASSASSINATION.
BUT...
...THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU STILL CAN'T CATCH A COLD.
IT DOESN'T MATTER AT ALL IF I CATCH A COLD NOW...
...DOES IT?
YOU *DO* KNOW WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN, THEN.
I THOUGHT SO.


YES, I DO.
I CLAIMED MY LAST VICTIM TODAY.
AND THIS IS THE DAY ...
...WHEN YOU'LL MAKE YOUR FIRST KILL.
TODAY *YOU* WILL BECOME THE SAKURAZUKAMORI.


I'M SO GLAD...
...THAT YOU'LL BE THE ONE TO END MY LIFE.
IS THAT SO?
YES.
THE GREATEST JOY LIFE CAN OFFER IS TO BE KILLED BY THE ONE YOU LOVE THE MOST.
DO YOU LOVE ME?
I DO.
ABOVE ALL OTHERS.
AND I LOVE YOU TOO, MOTHER.
BUT I'M NOT THE ONE YOU LOVE MOST.
TAKE MY LIFE, SEISHIRO. IT'S TIME.


AS YOU WISH.


NOW YOU ARE ...
...THE SAKURAZUKAMORI.
UNTIL YOUR SUCCESSOR TAKES YOUR LIFE IN TURN.
DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT WILL BE?
IT WILL BE...
...THE PERSON YOU LOVE THE MOST.
YOU KNOW I'M NOT CAPABLE OF LOVING ANYONE ...
... MOTHER.
AS THE ONE WHO GAVE BIRTH TO ME, YOU KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE.


I ONCE BELIEVED ...
...THE SAME THING ABOUT MYSELF.
UNTIL YOU CAME INTO MY LIFE.
FAREWELL ...
...MOTHER.
SEISHIRO SAKURAZUKA—END

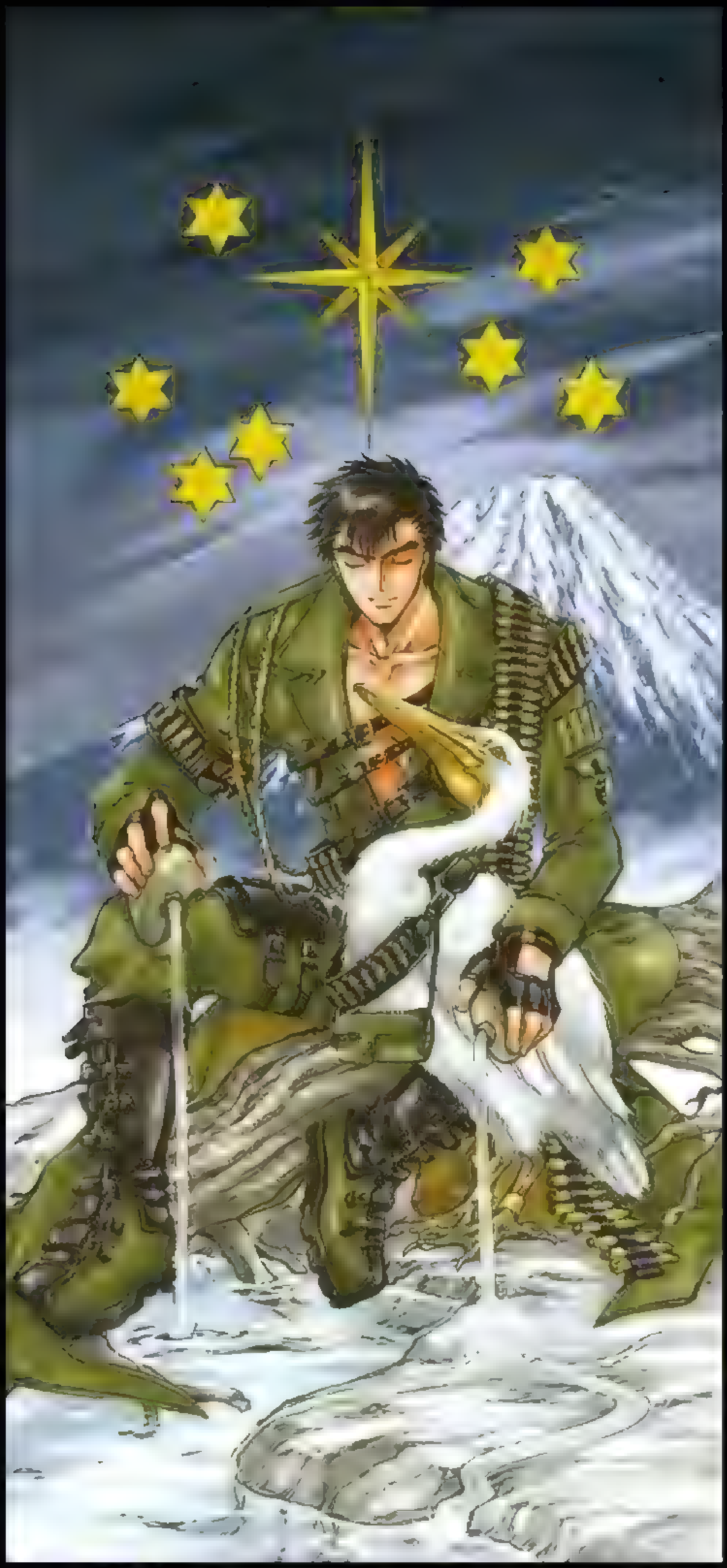
# X

# X

VOLUME 6, PART 2

THE ENDING I

X



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THE STAR

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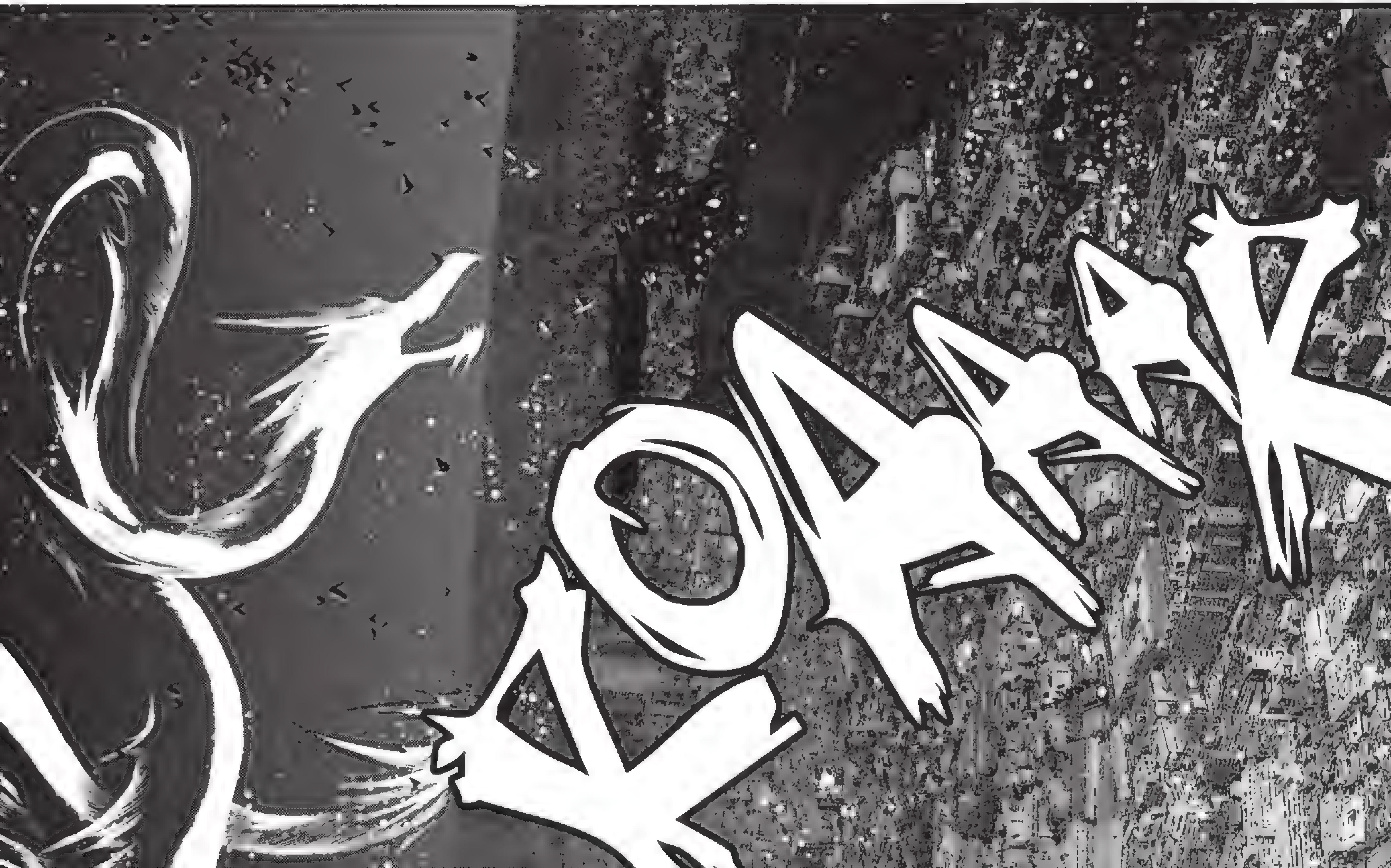
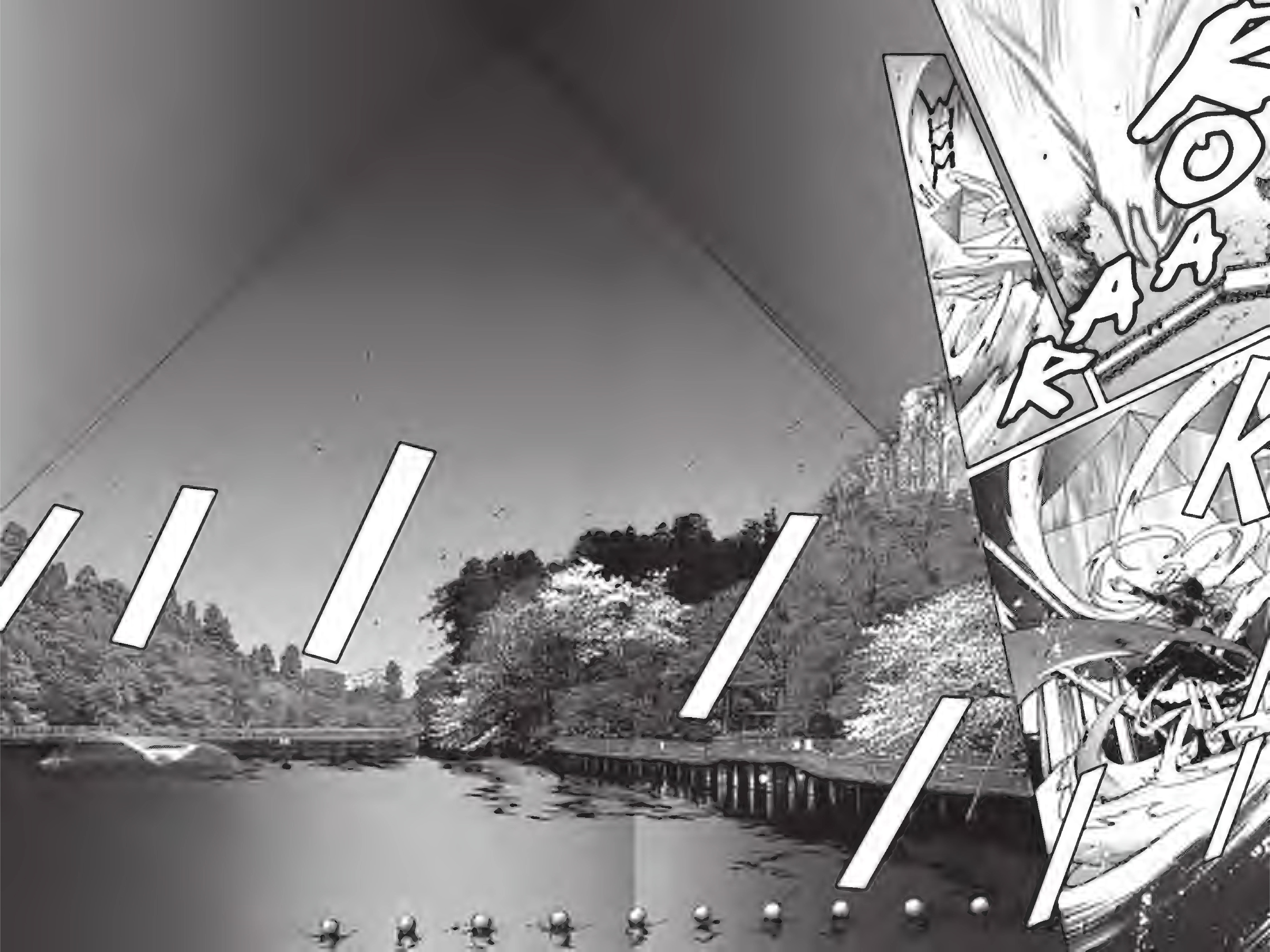
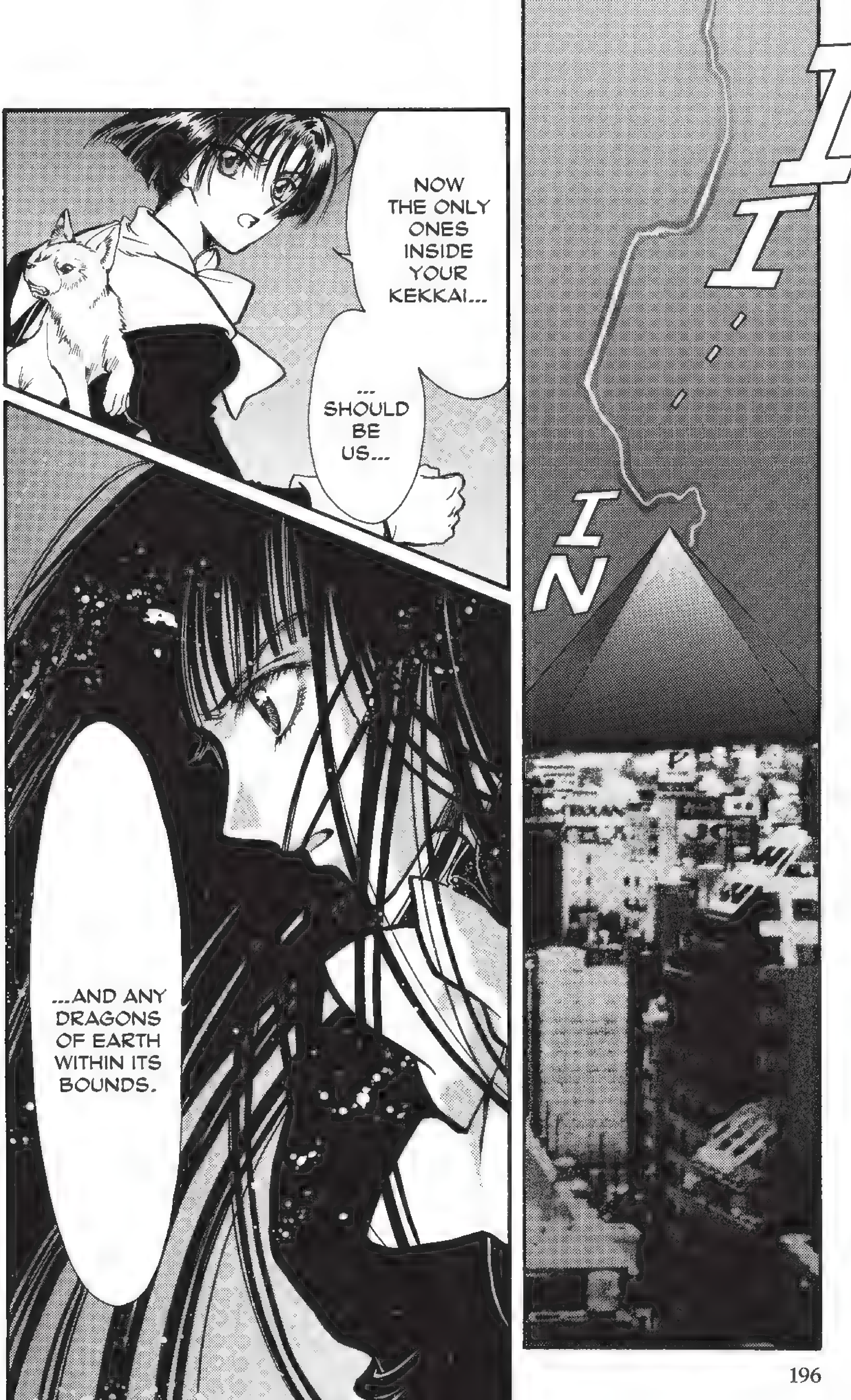
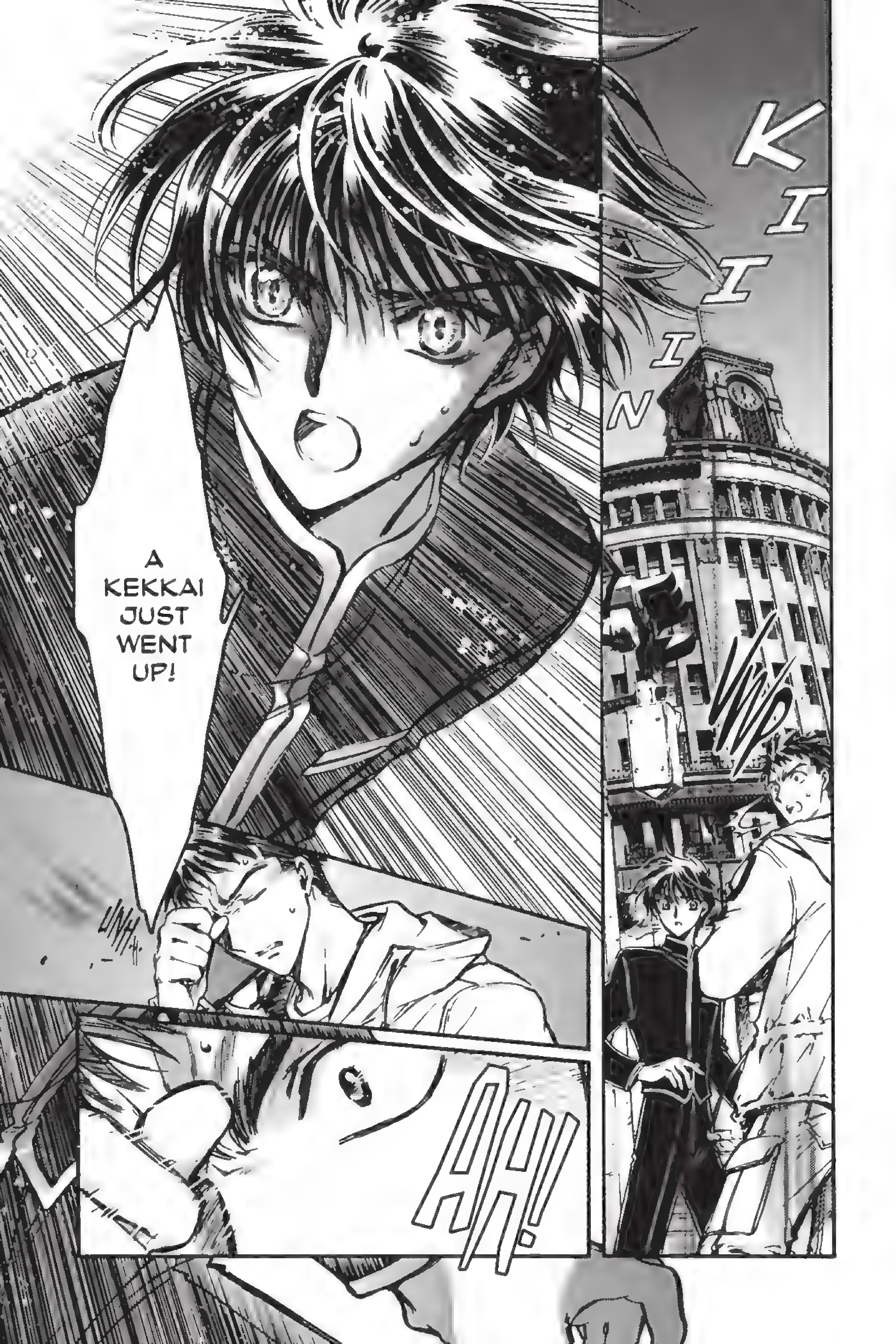
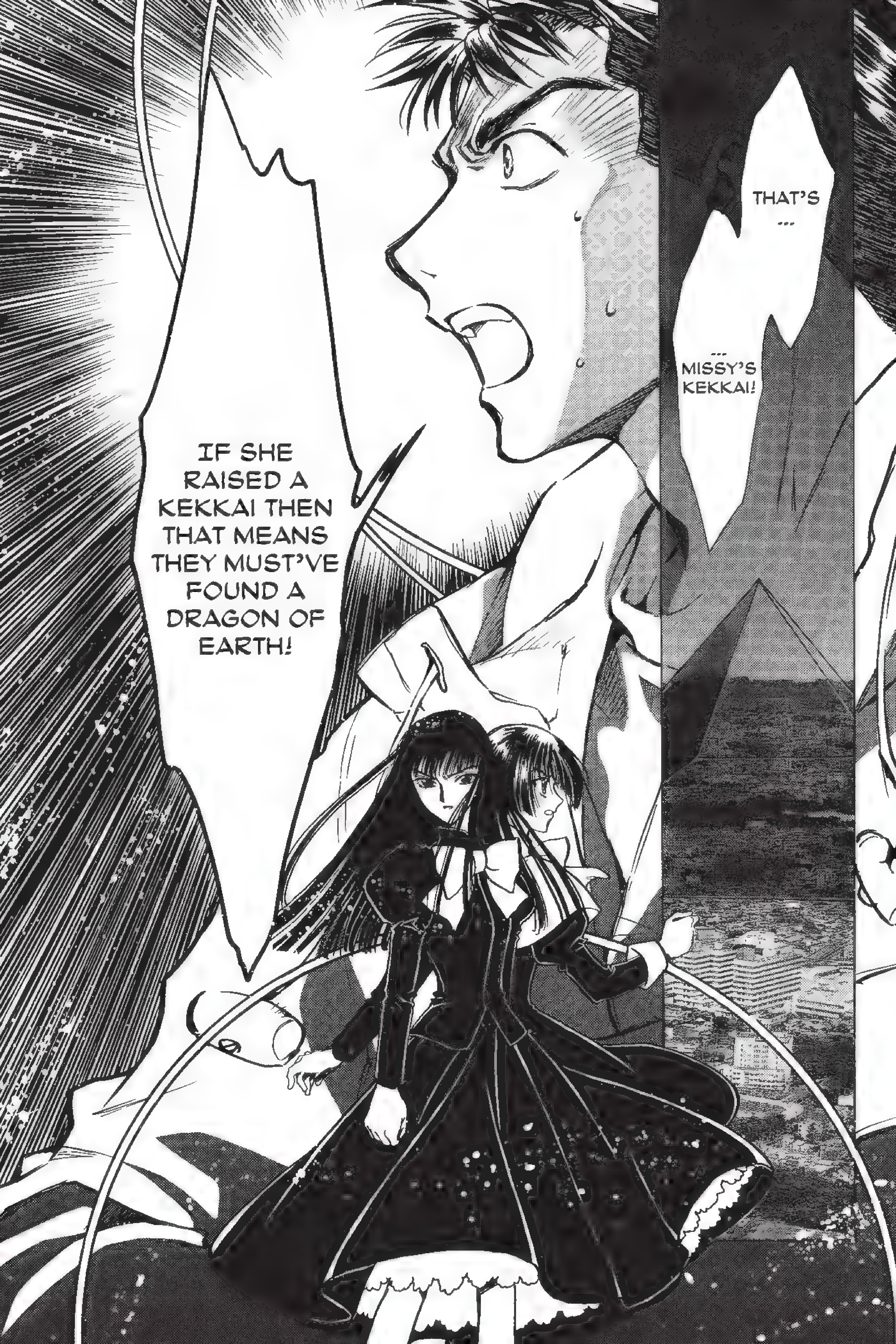


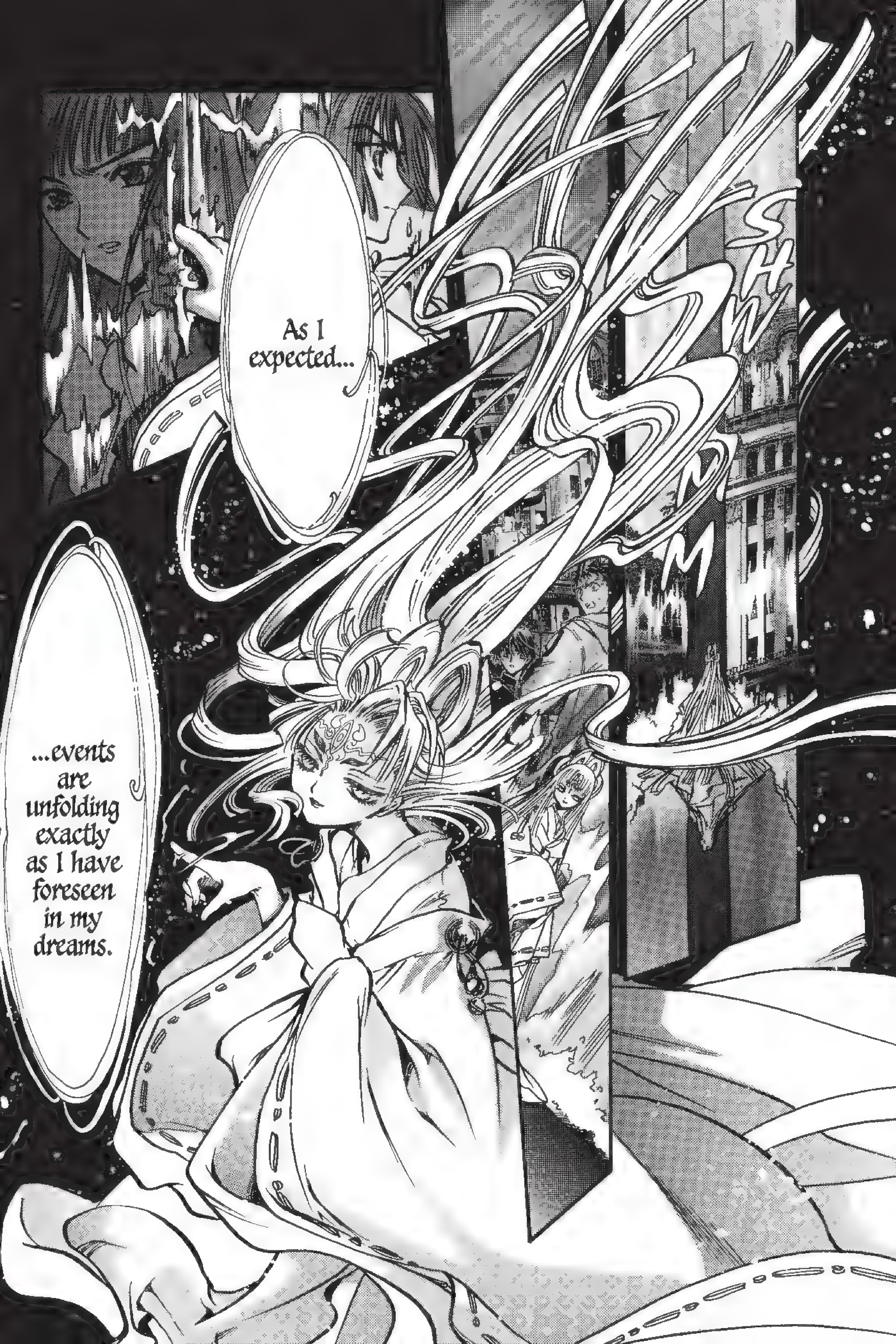
KOAAAR

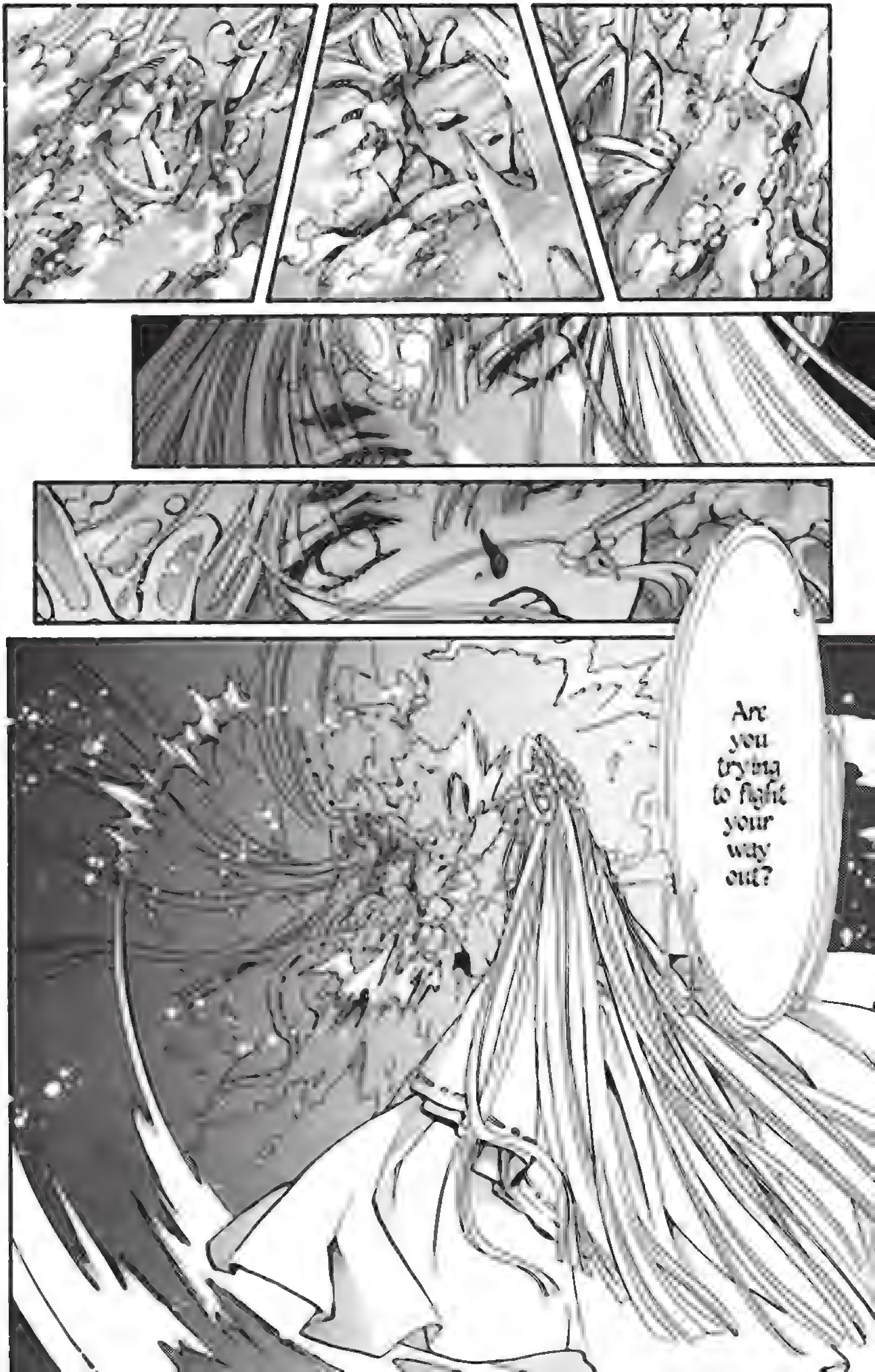

KAAO
K

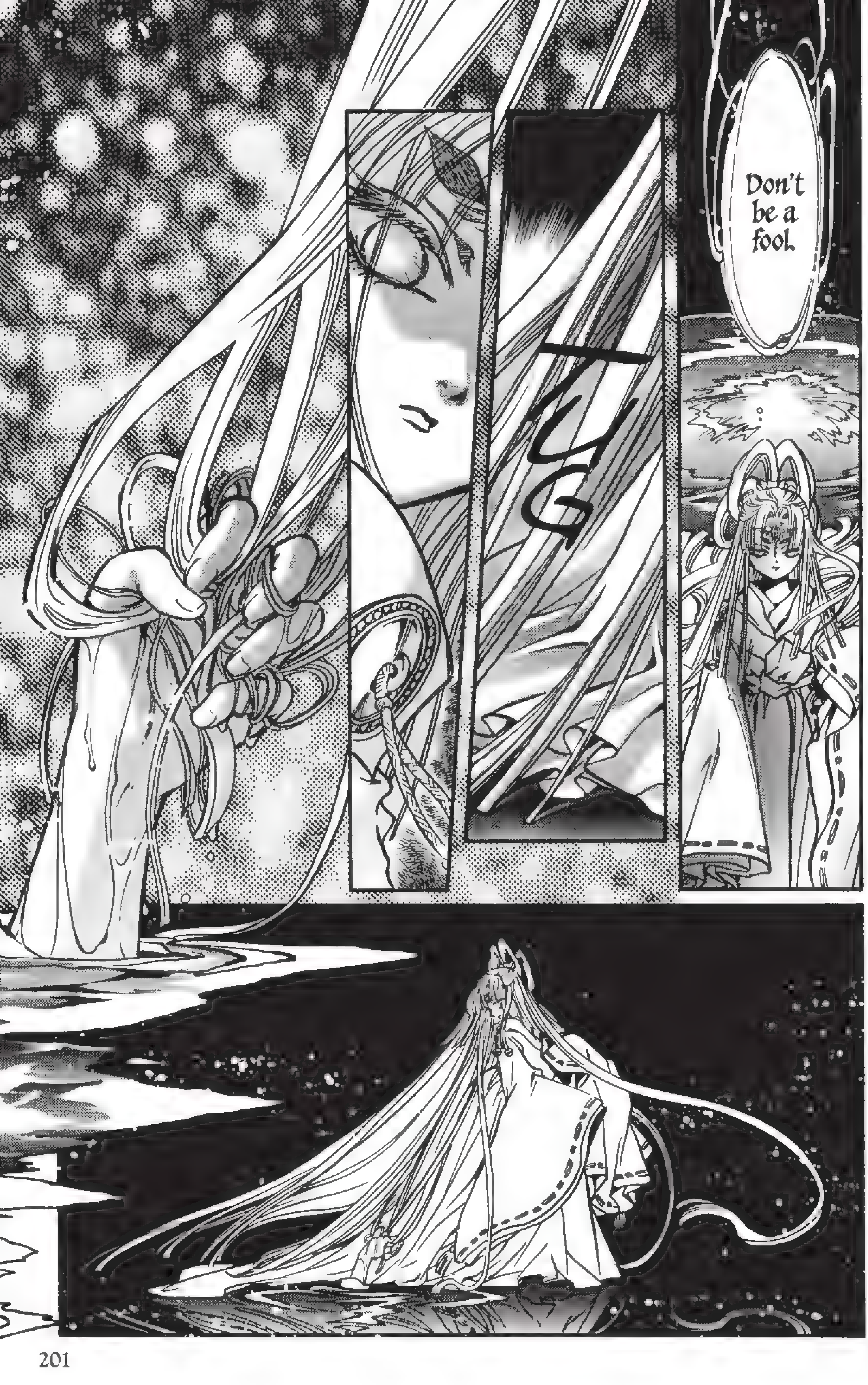

IIIN
NOW THE ONLY ONES INSIDE YOUR KEKKAI...
...SHOULD BE US...
...AND ANY DRAGONS OF EARTH WITHIN ITS BOUNDS.

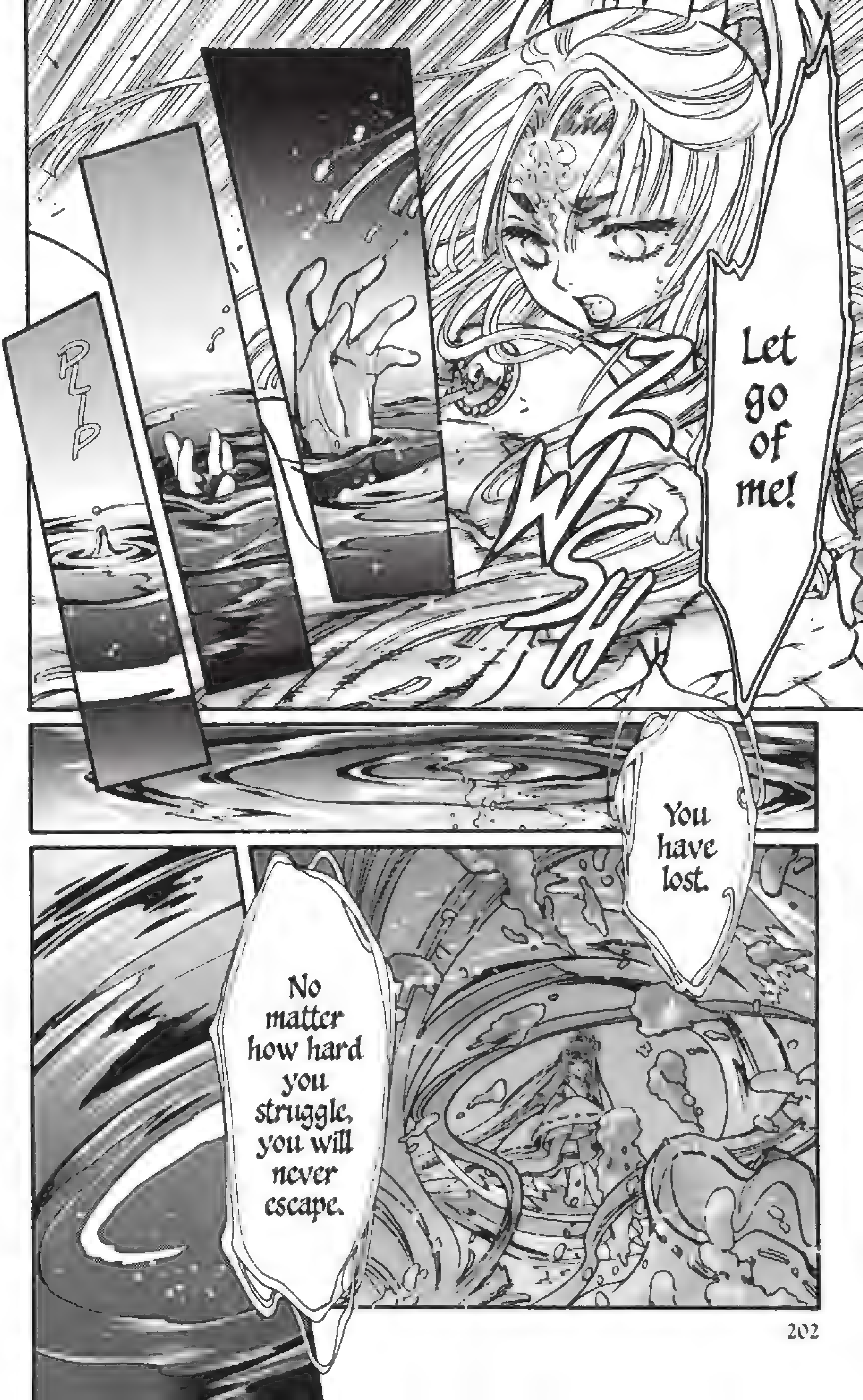

KIIIIN
A KEKKAI JUST WENT UP!
UNH
AH!

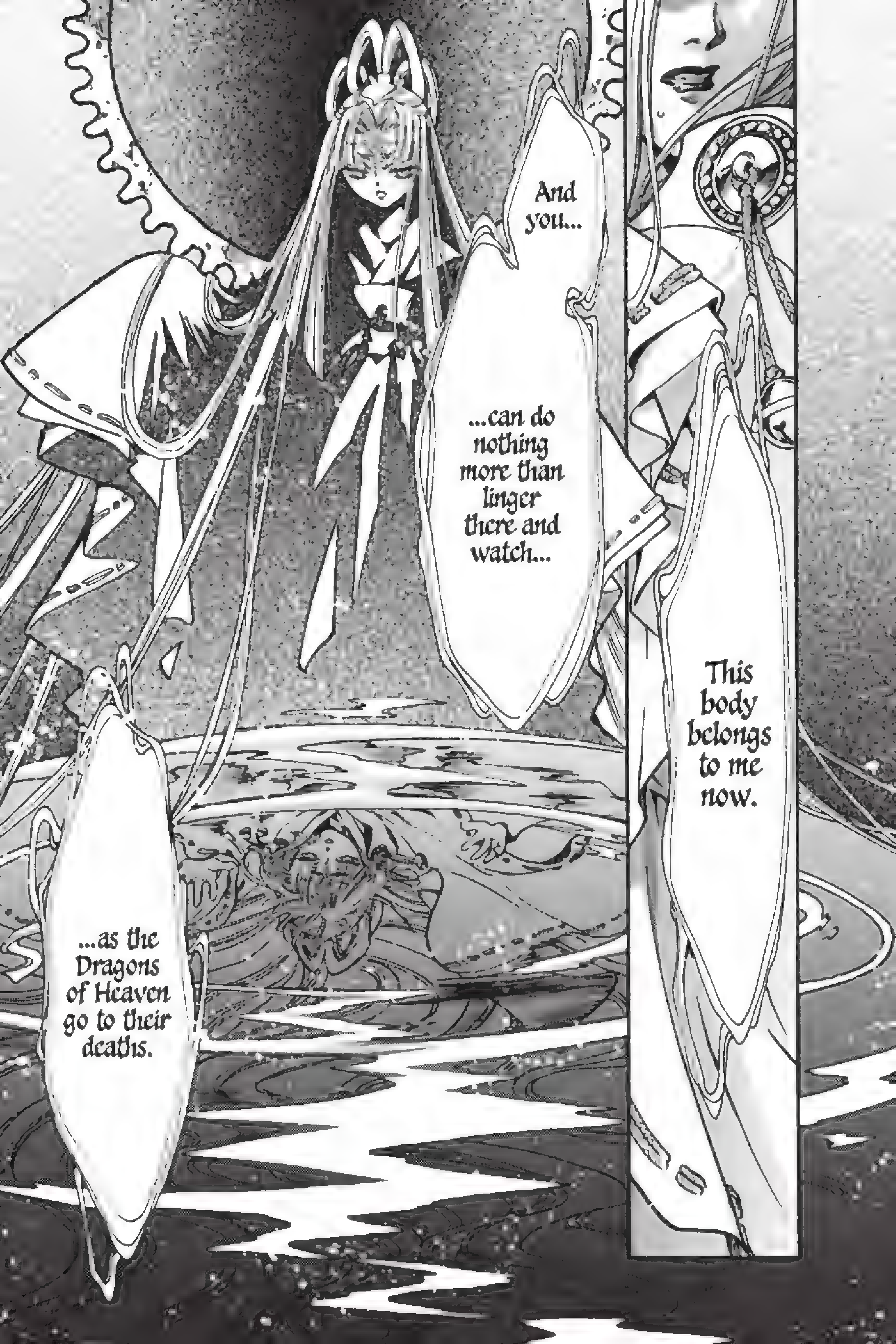

THAT'S ...
... MISSY'S KEKKAI!
IF SHE RAISED A KEKKAI THEN THAT MEANS THEY MUST'VE FOUND A DRAGON OF EARTH!

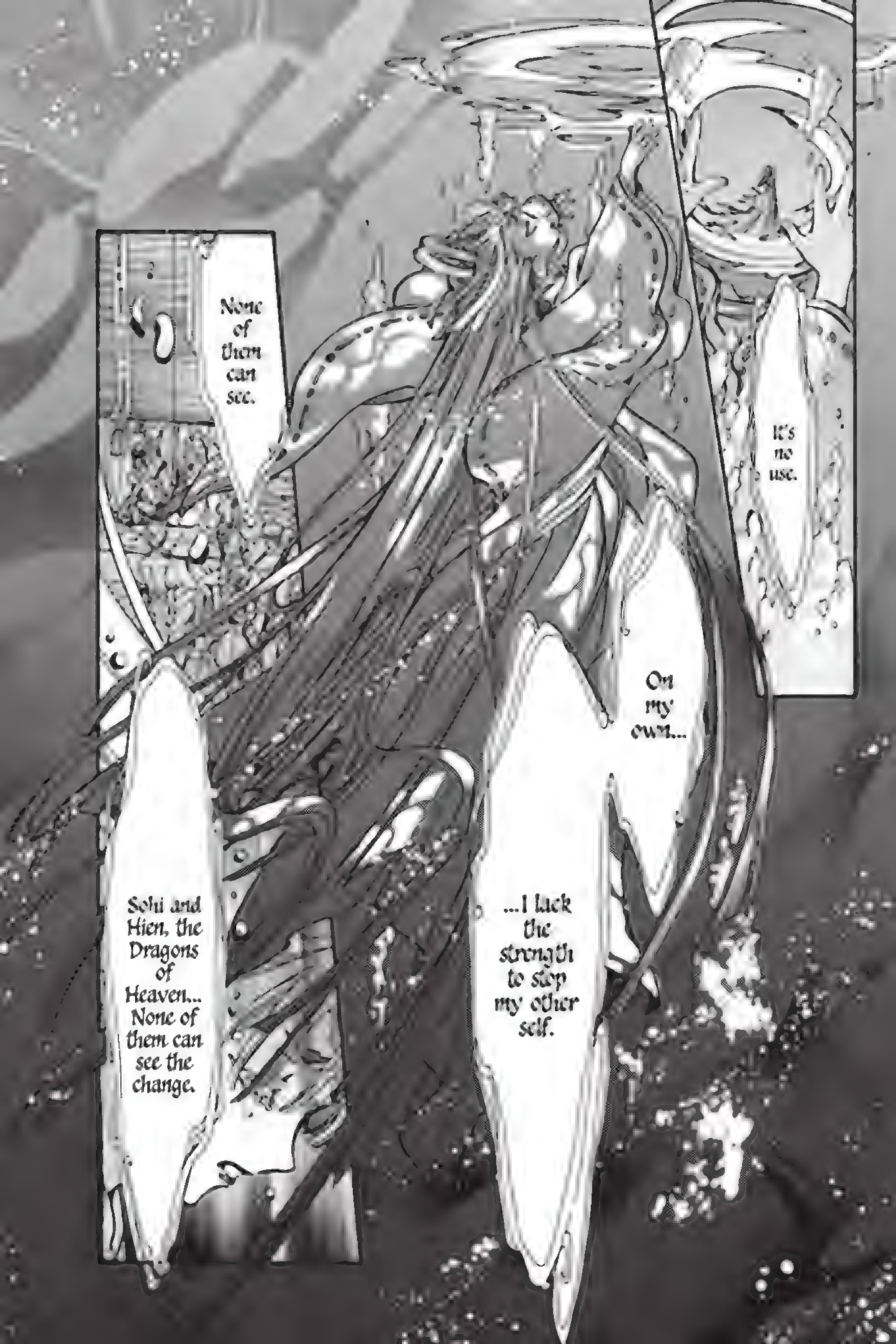

SHWMM
As I expected...
...events are unfolding exactly as I have foreseen in my dreams.

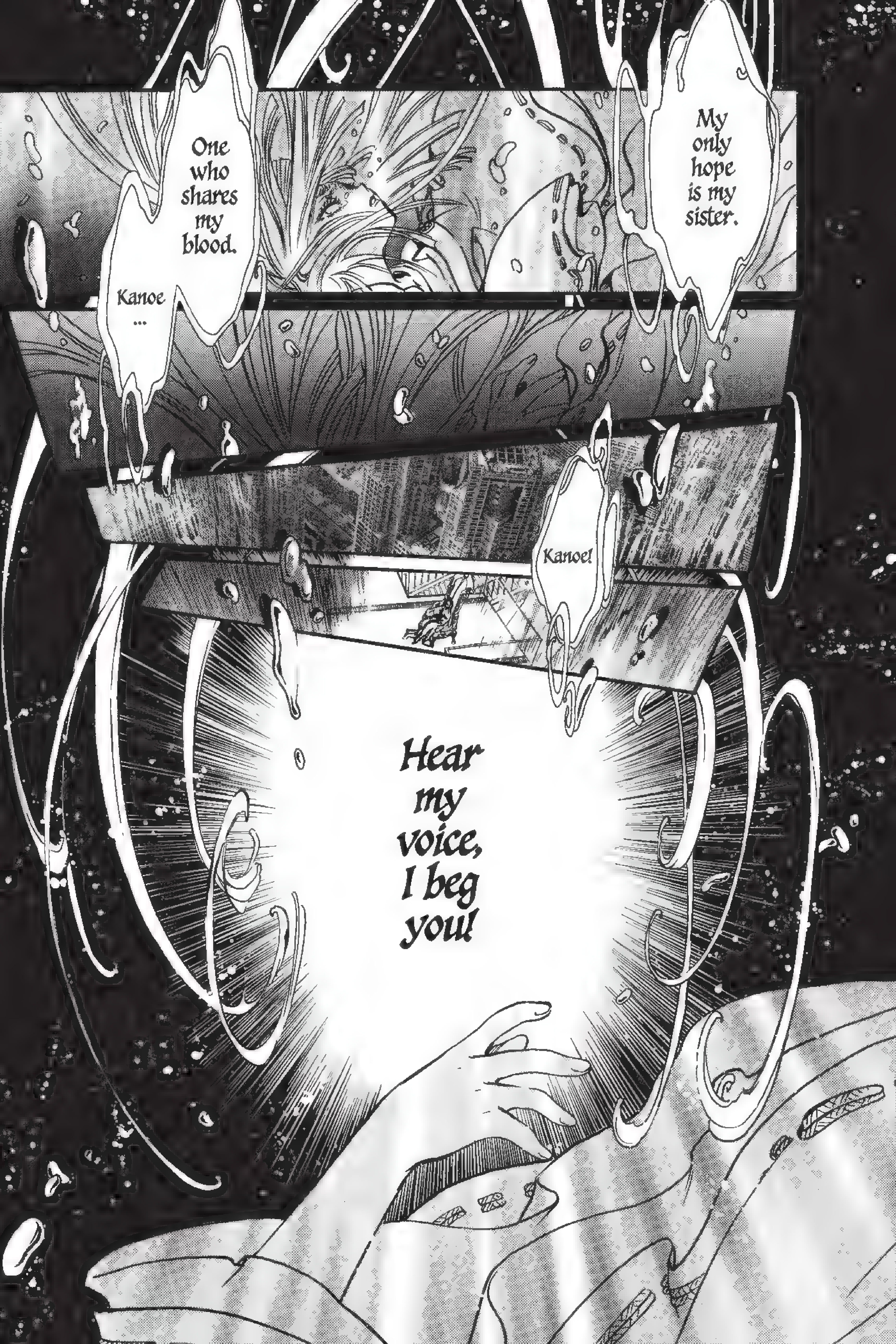

Are you trying to fight your way out?

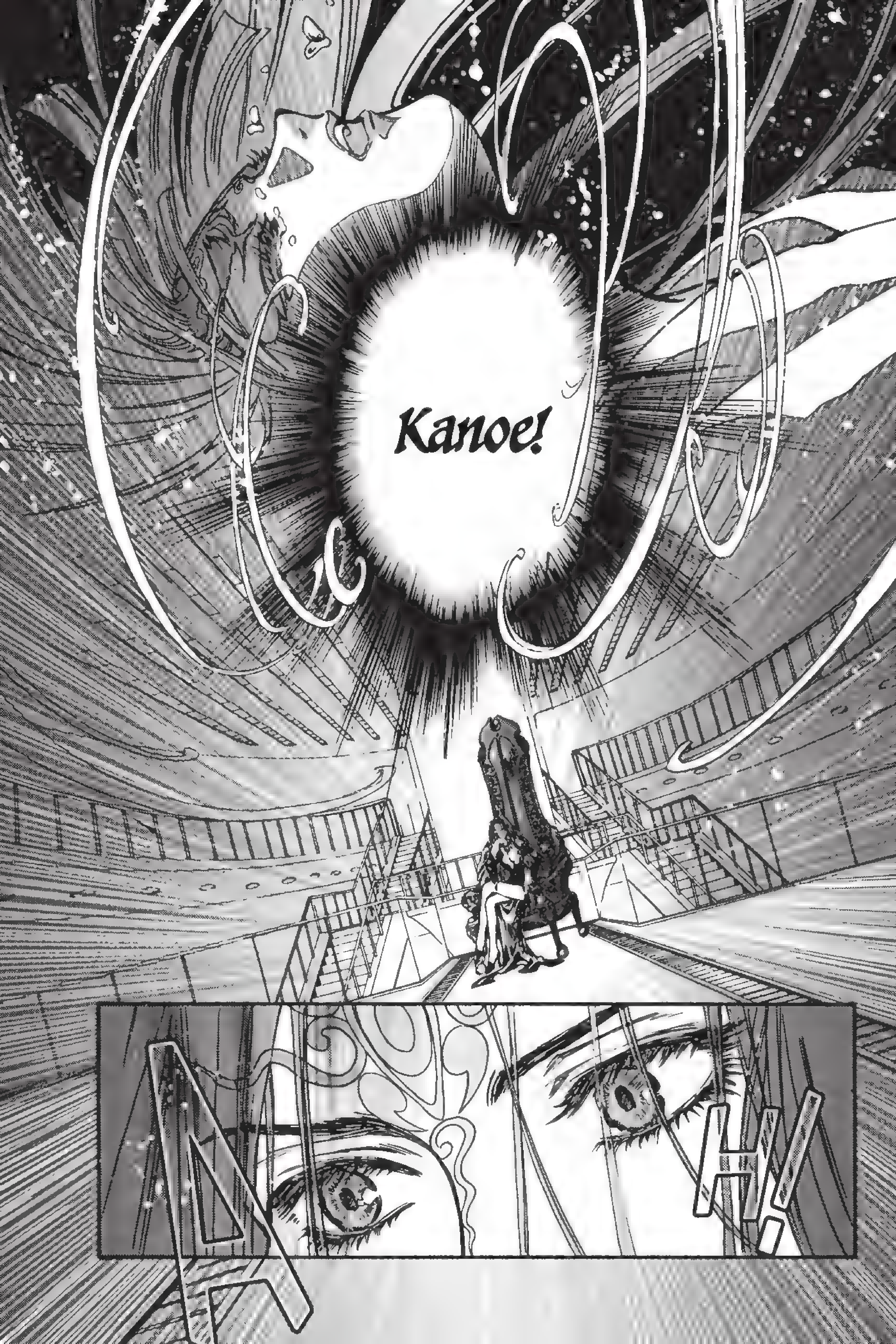

Don't be a fool.
…
TUG

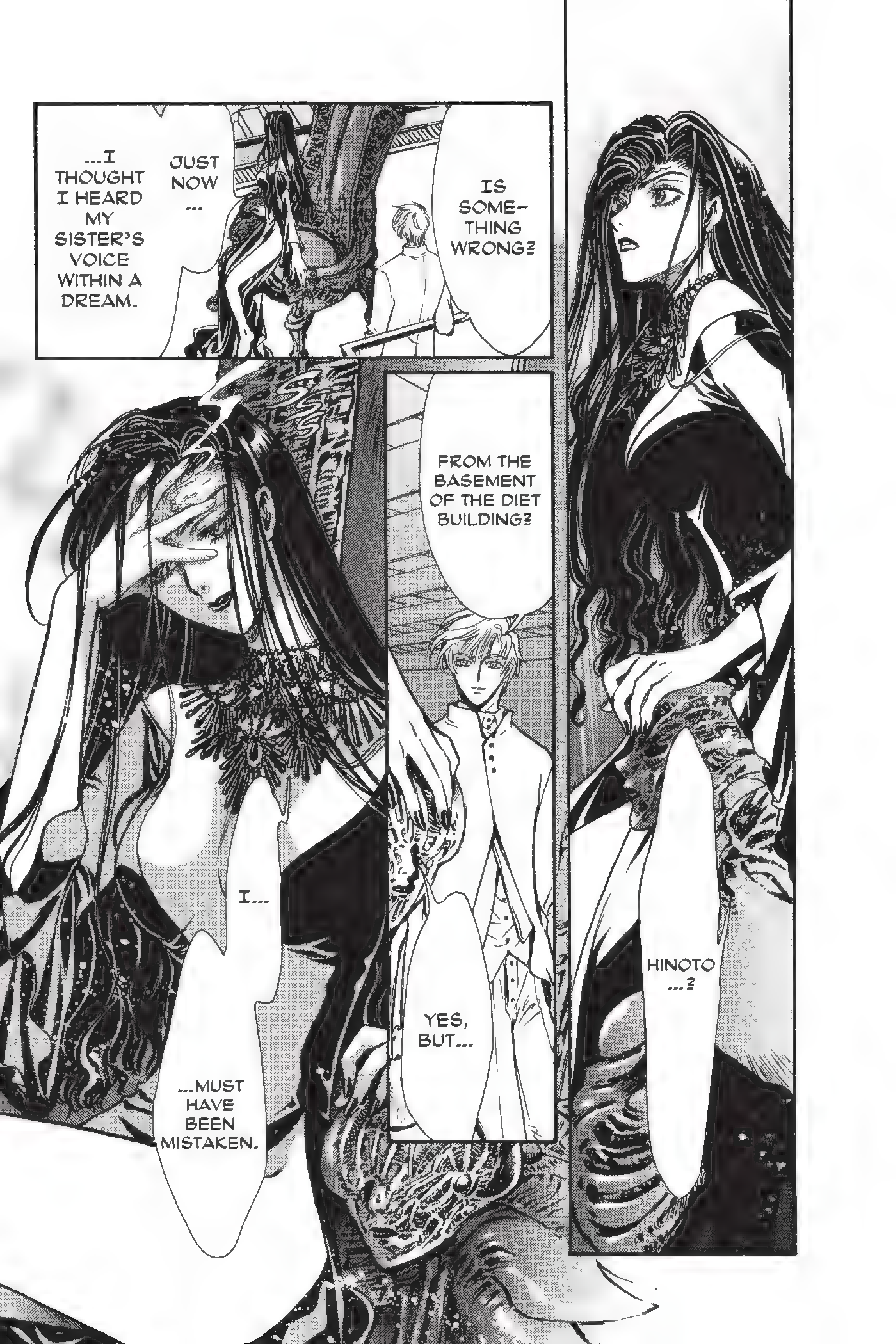

Let go of me!
ZWSH
PLIP
You have lost.
No matter how hard you struggle, you will never escape.

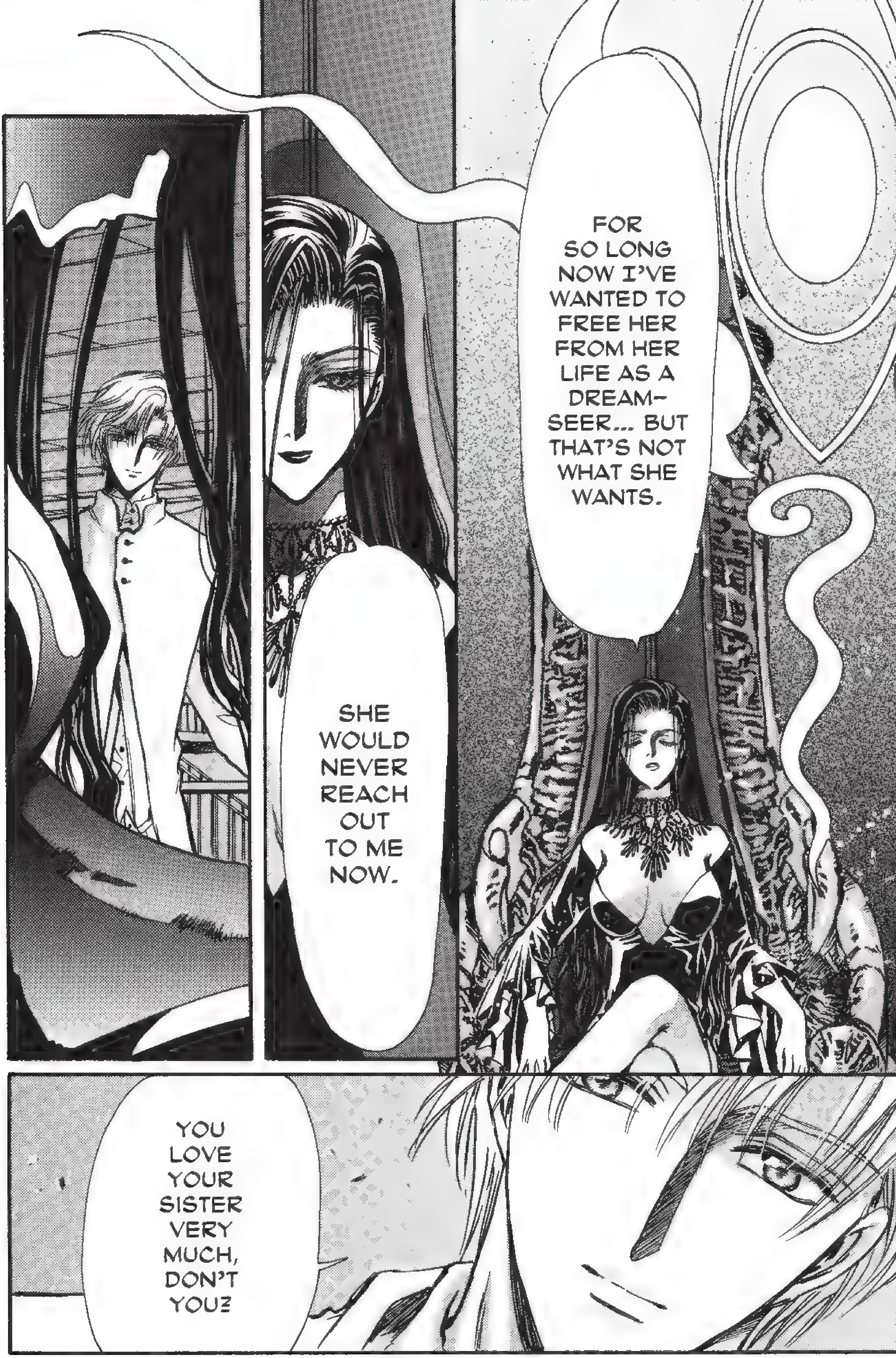

This body belongs to me now.
And you...
...can do nothing more than linger there and watch...
...as the Dragons of Heaven go to their deaths.

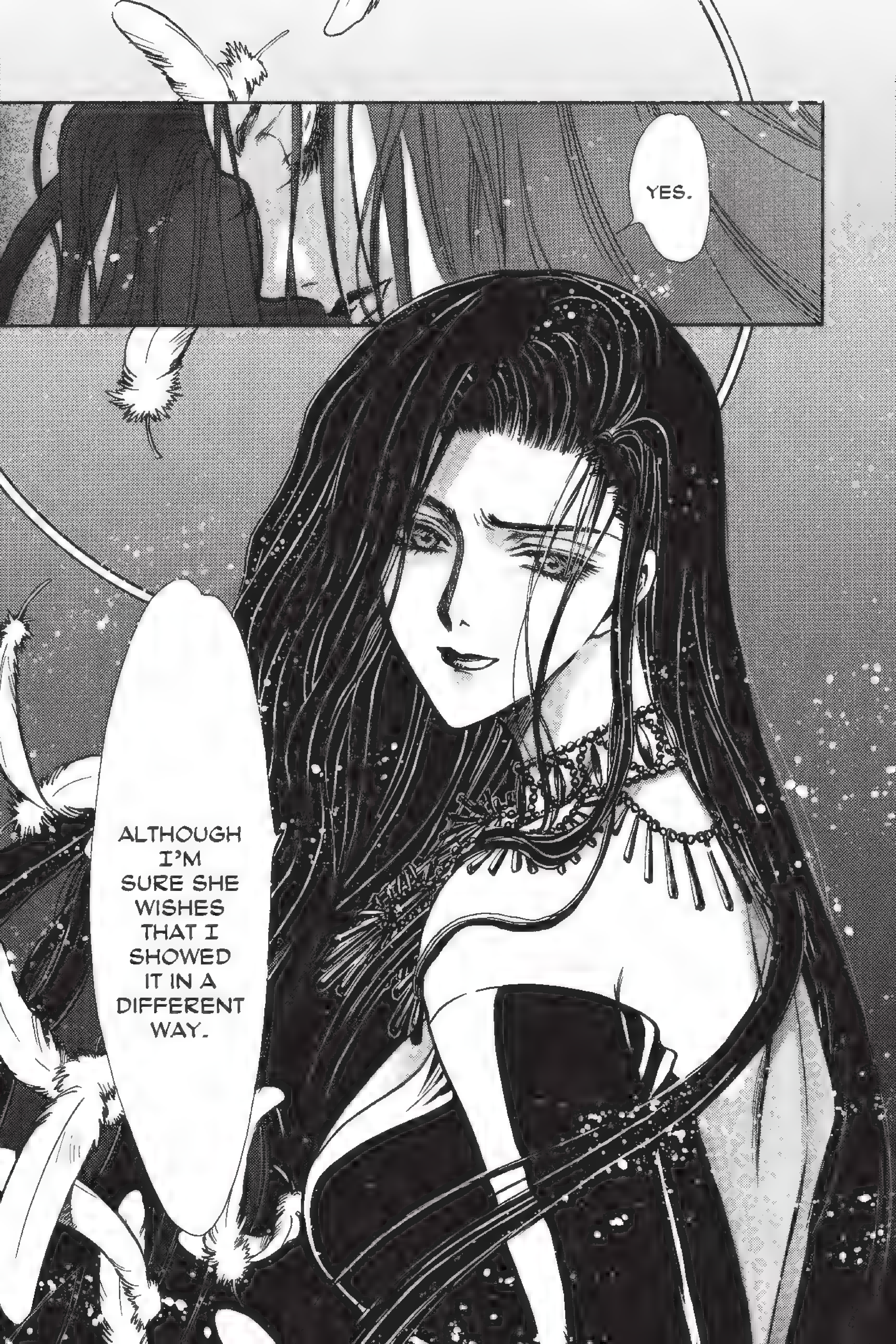

It's no use.
On my own...
...I lack the strength to stop my other self.
None of them can see.
Sohi and Hien, the Dragons of Heaven... None of them can see the change.

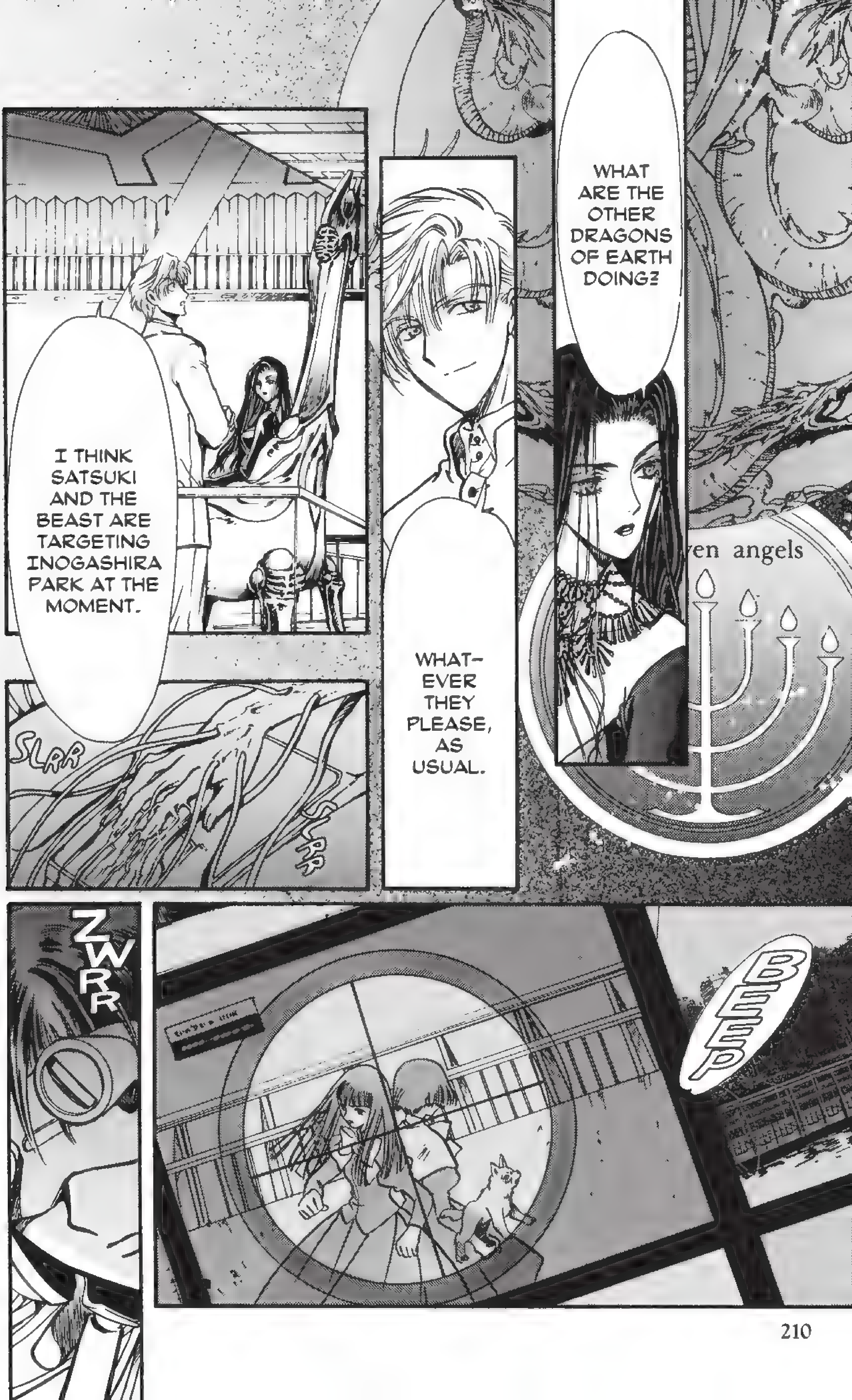

My only hope is my sister.
One who shares my blood.
Kanoe ...
Kanoe!
Hear my voice, I beg you!

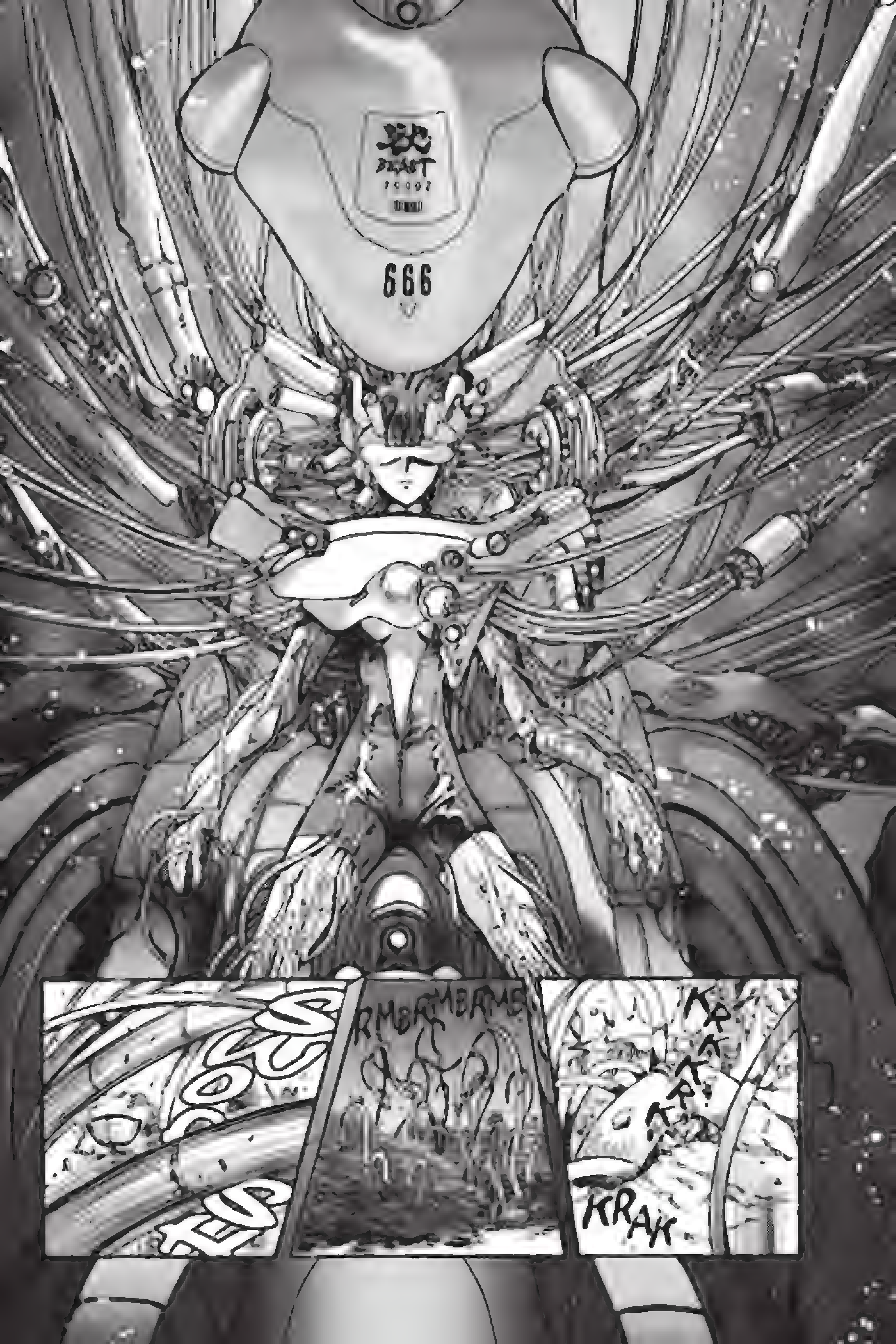

Kanoe!
HA

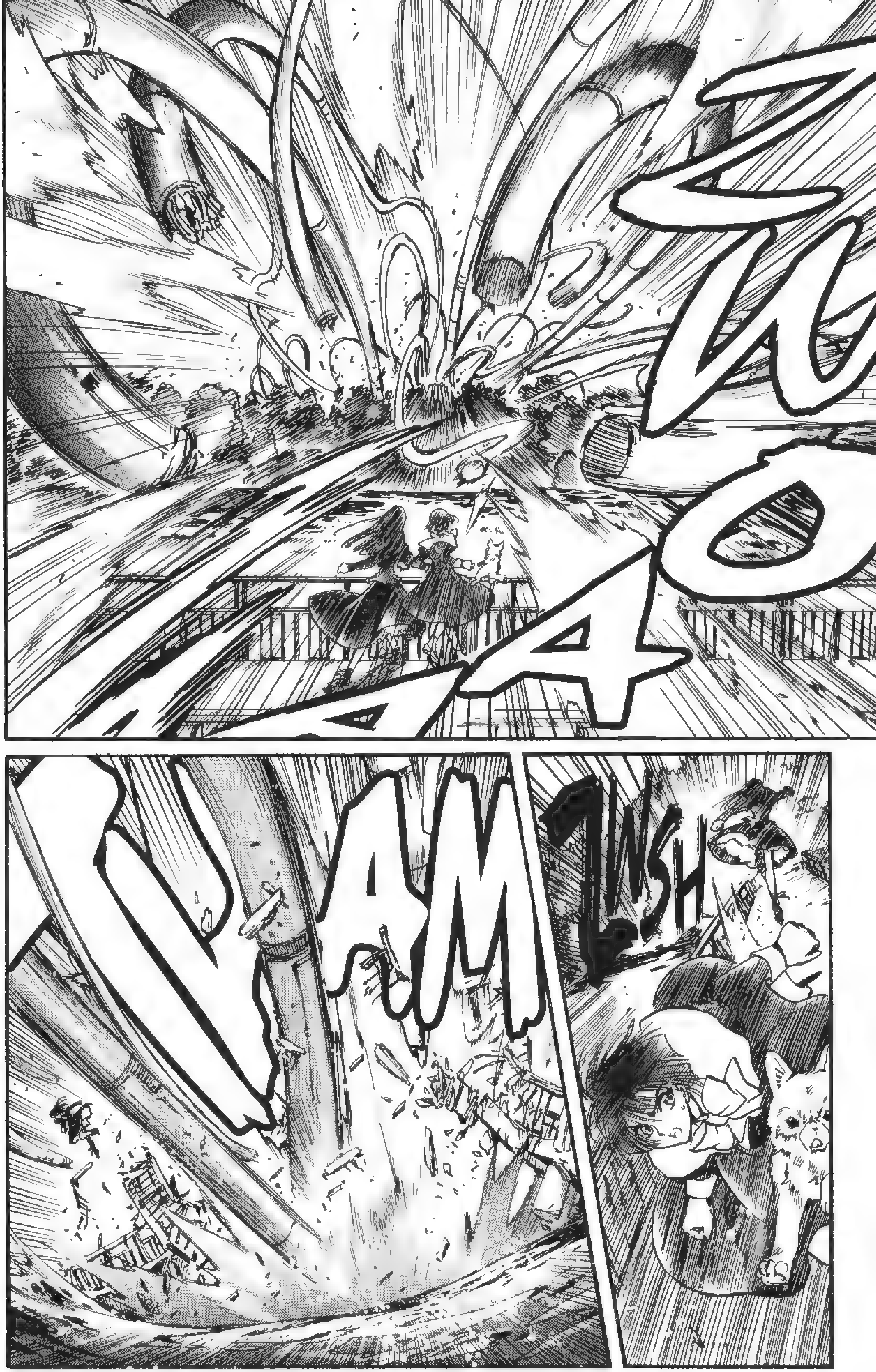

HINOTO...?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
JUST NOW...
...I THOUGHT I HEARD MY SISTER'S VOICE WITHIN A DREAM.
FROM THE BASEMENT OF THE DIET BUILDING?
YES, BUT...
I...
...MUST HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN.

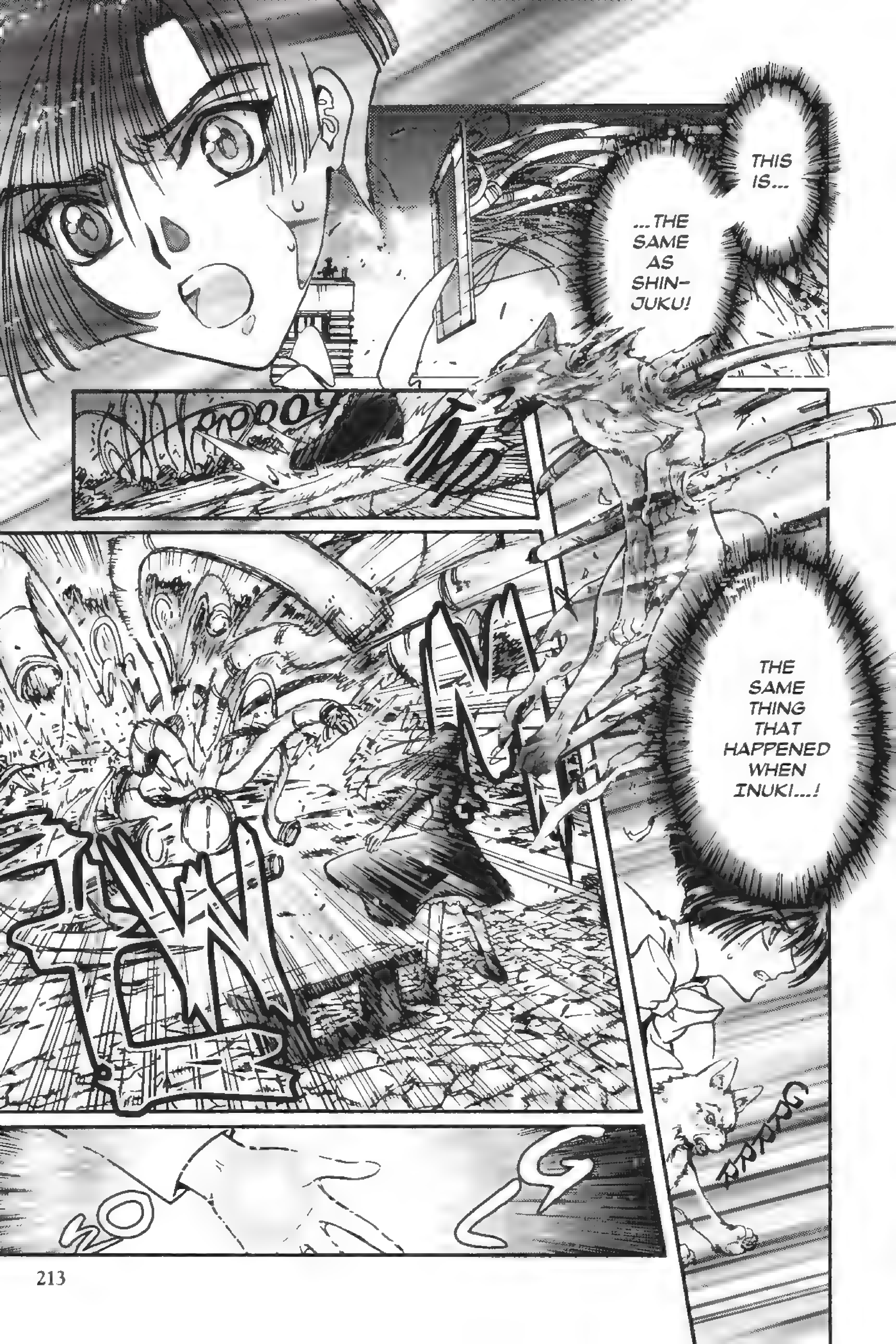

FOR SO LONG NOW I'VE WANTED TO FREE HER FROM HER LIFE AS A DREAM-SEER... BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE WANTS.
SHE WOULD NEVER REACH OUT TO ME NOW.
YOU LOVE YOUR SISTER VERY MUCH, DON'T YOU?

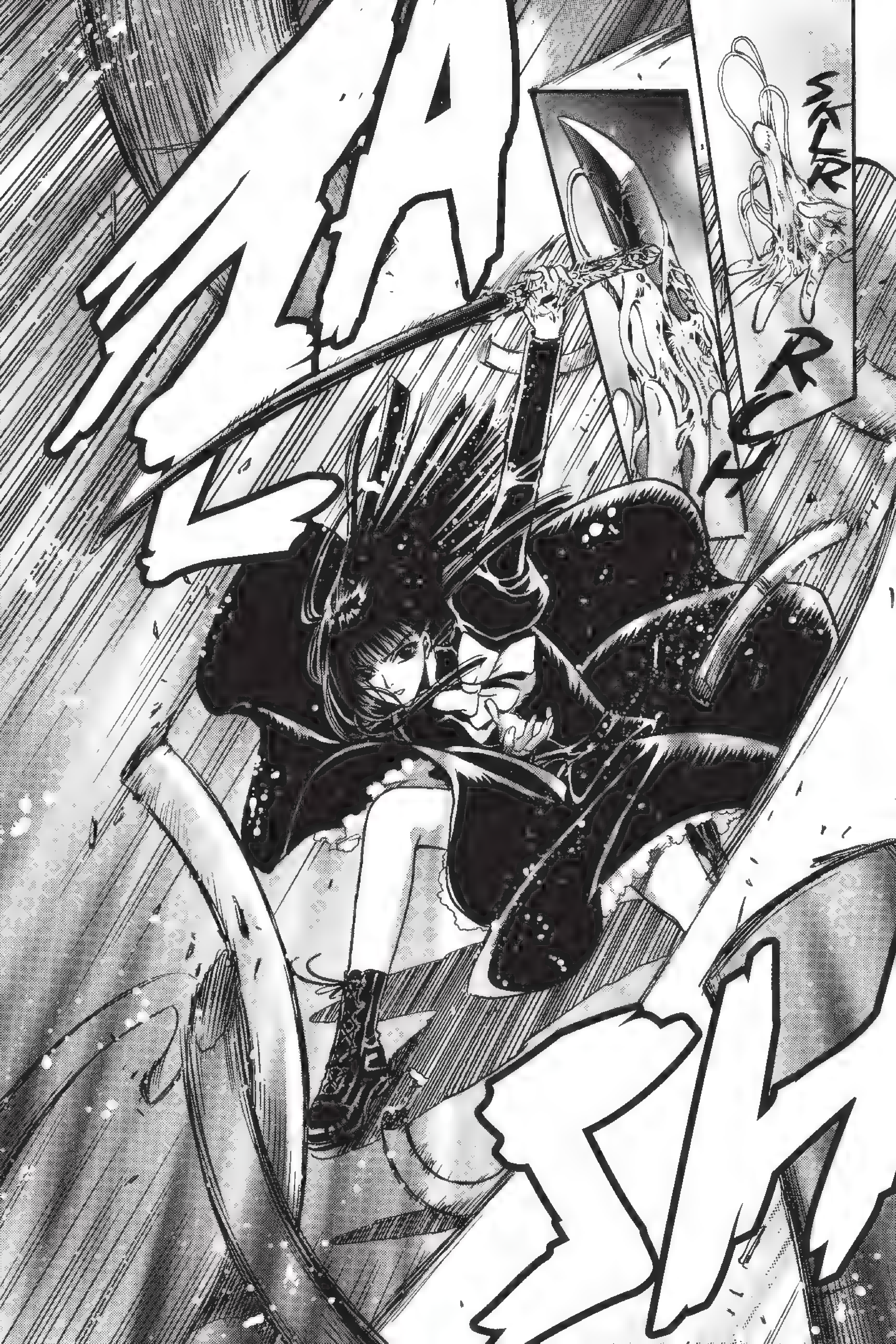

YES.
ALTHOUGH I'M SURE SHE WISHES THAT I SHOWED IT IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

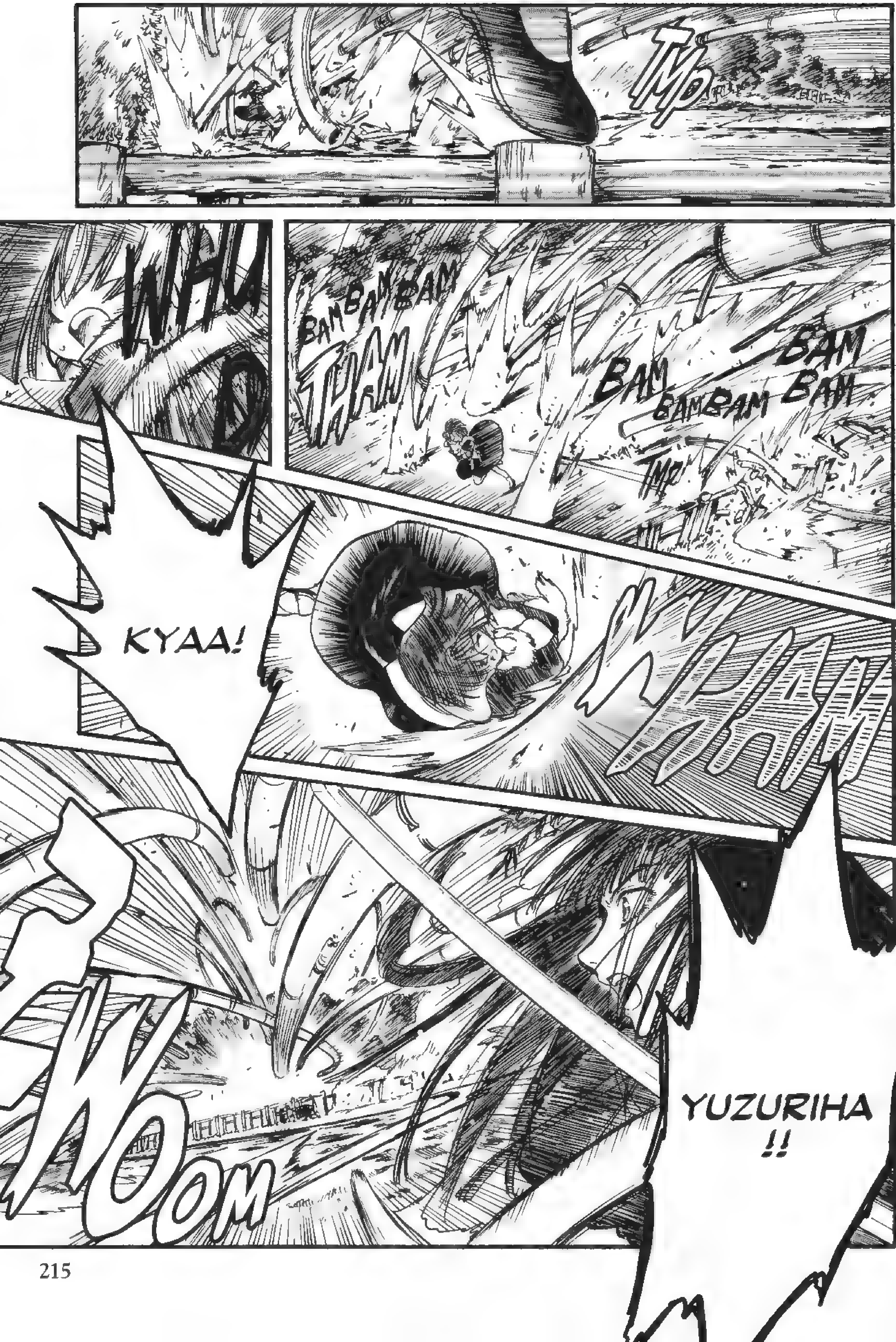

WHAT ARE THE OTHER DRAGONS OF EARTH DOING?
WHATEVER THEY PLEASE, AS USUAL.
I THINK SATSUKI AND THE BEAST ARE TARGETING INOGASHIRA PARK AT THE MOMENT.
ven angels
SLRR
SLRR
BEEP
ZWRR

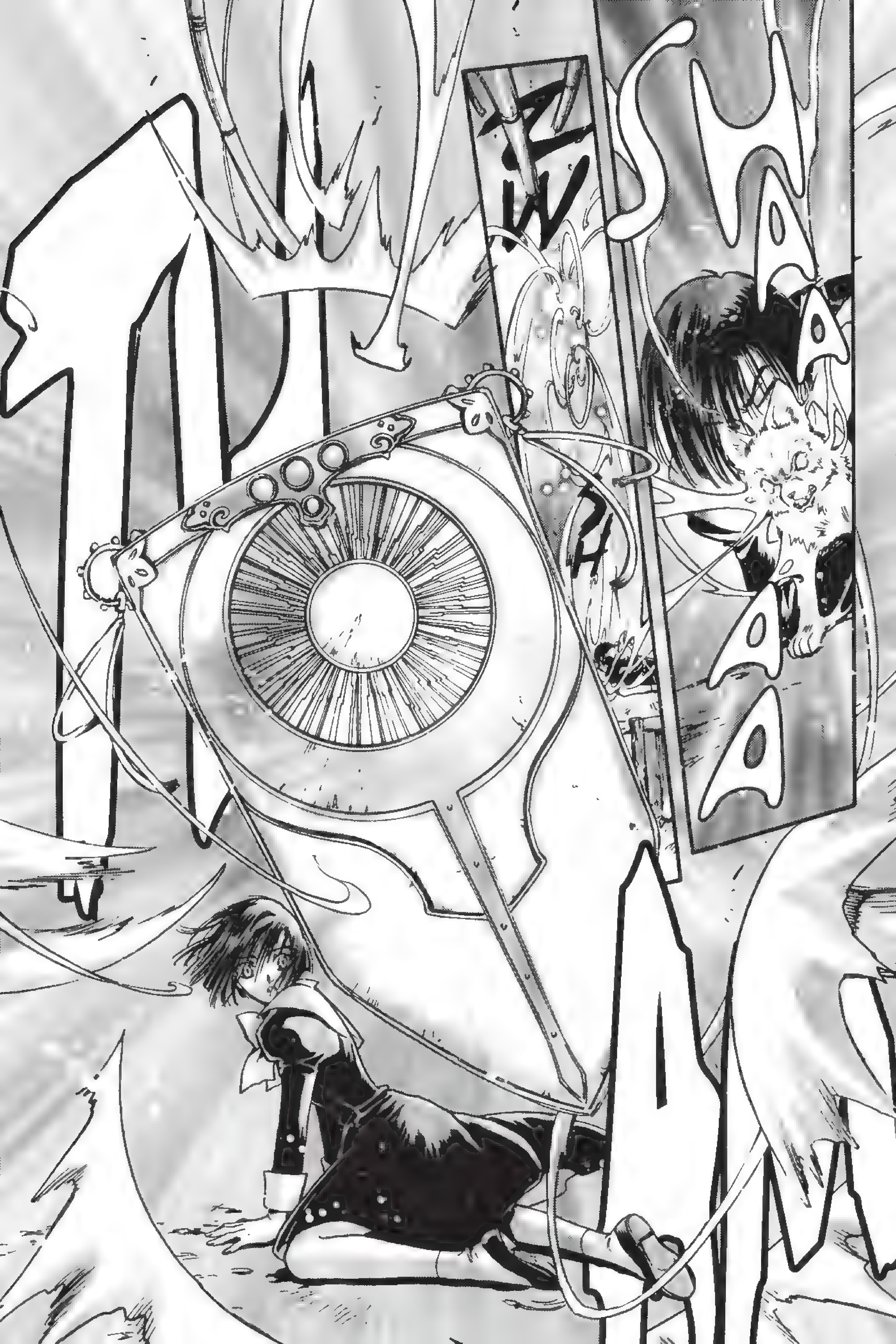

BEAST
666
KRAKRAKRA
KRAK
RMBRMBRMBRMB
SQUOOSH

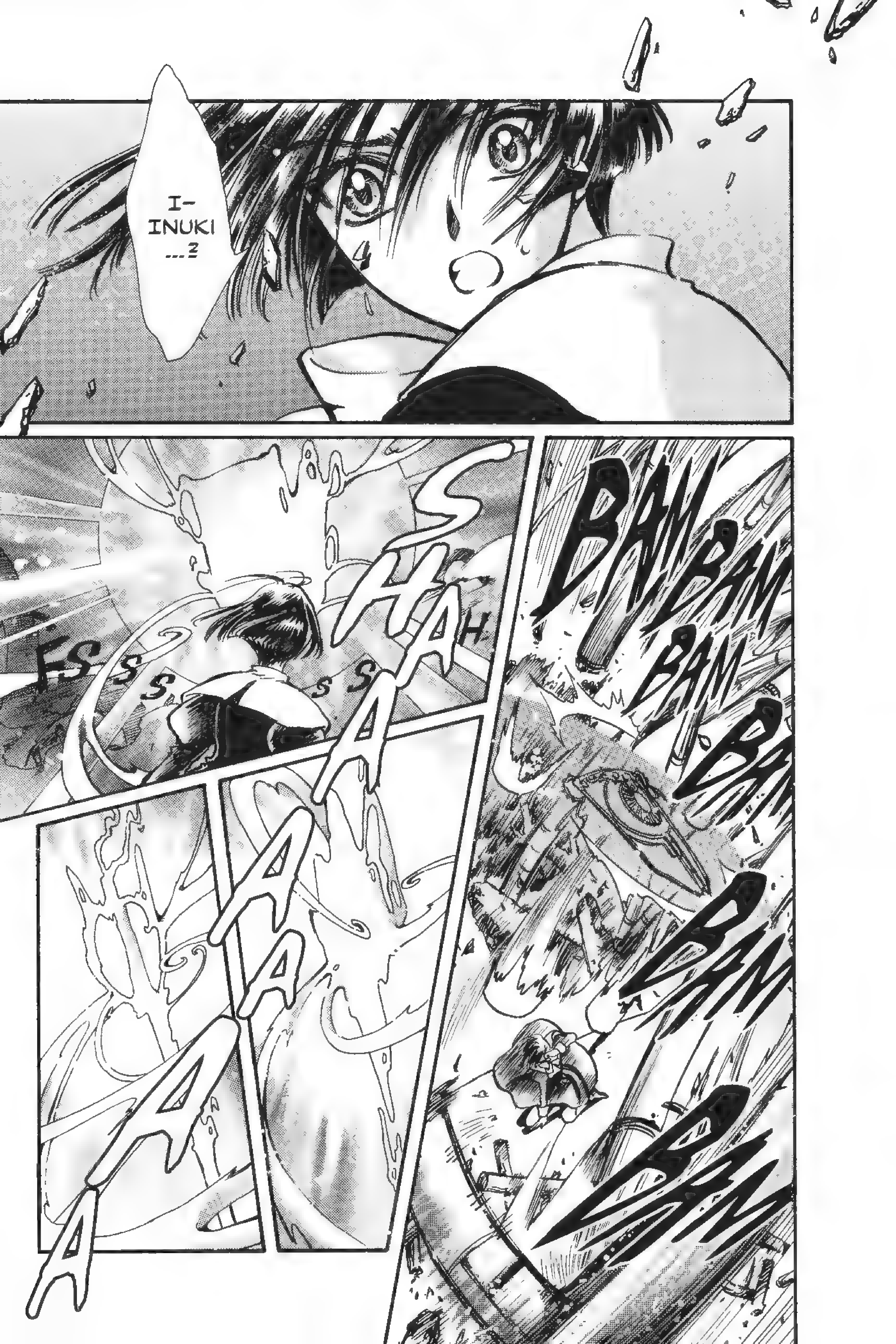

ZWOAA
VAM
ZWSH

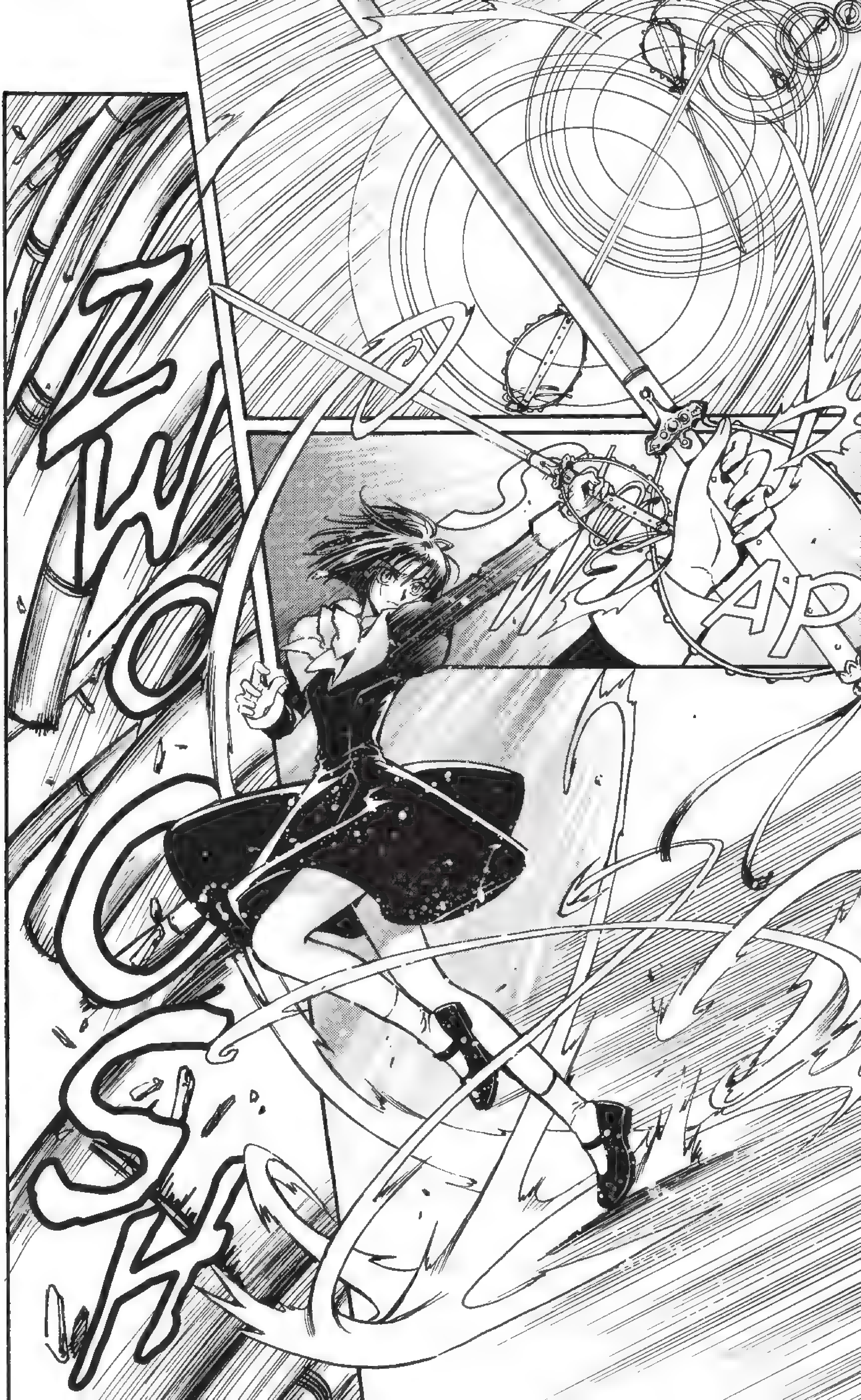

THIS IS...
...THE SAME AS SHIN-JUKU!
THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED WHEN INUKI...!

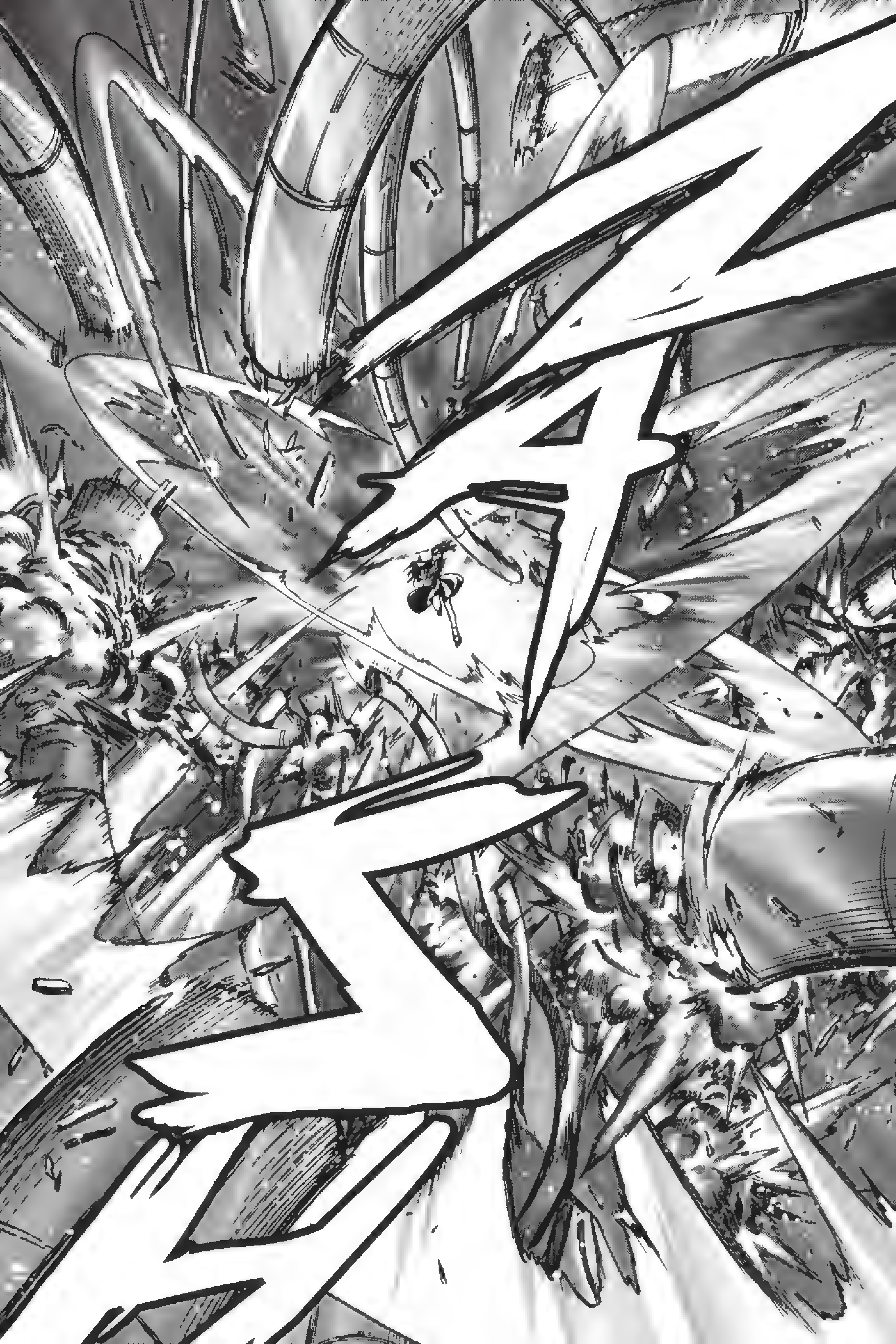

SKLRRCH
ZA
SH

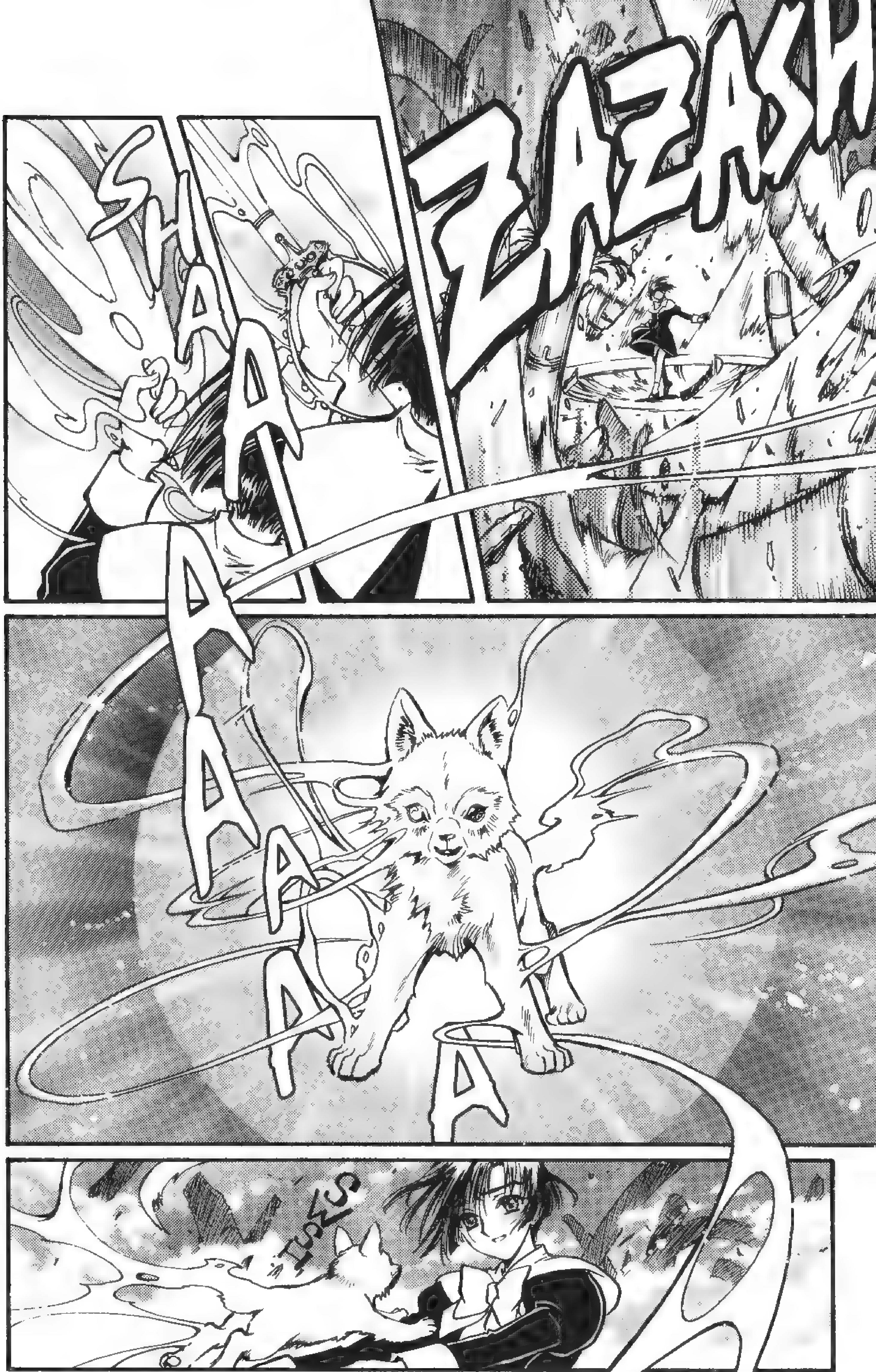

TMP
WHUD
BAMBAMBAM
THAM
BAM BAM
BAM BAMBAM BAM
TMP
KYAA!
WHAM
WHOOM
YUZURIHA !!

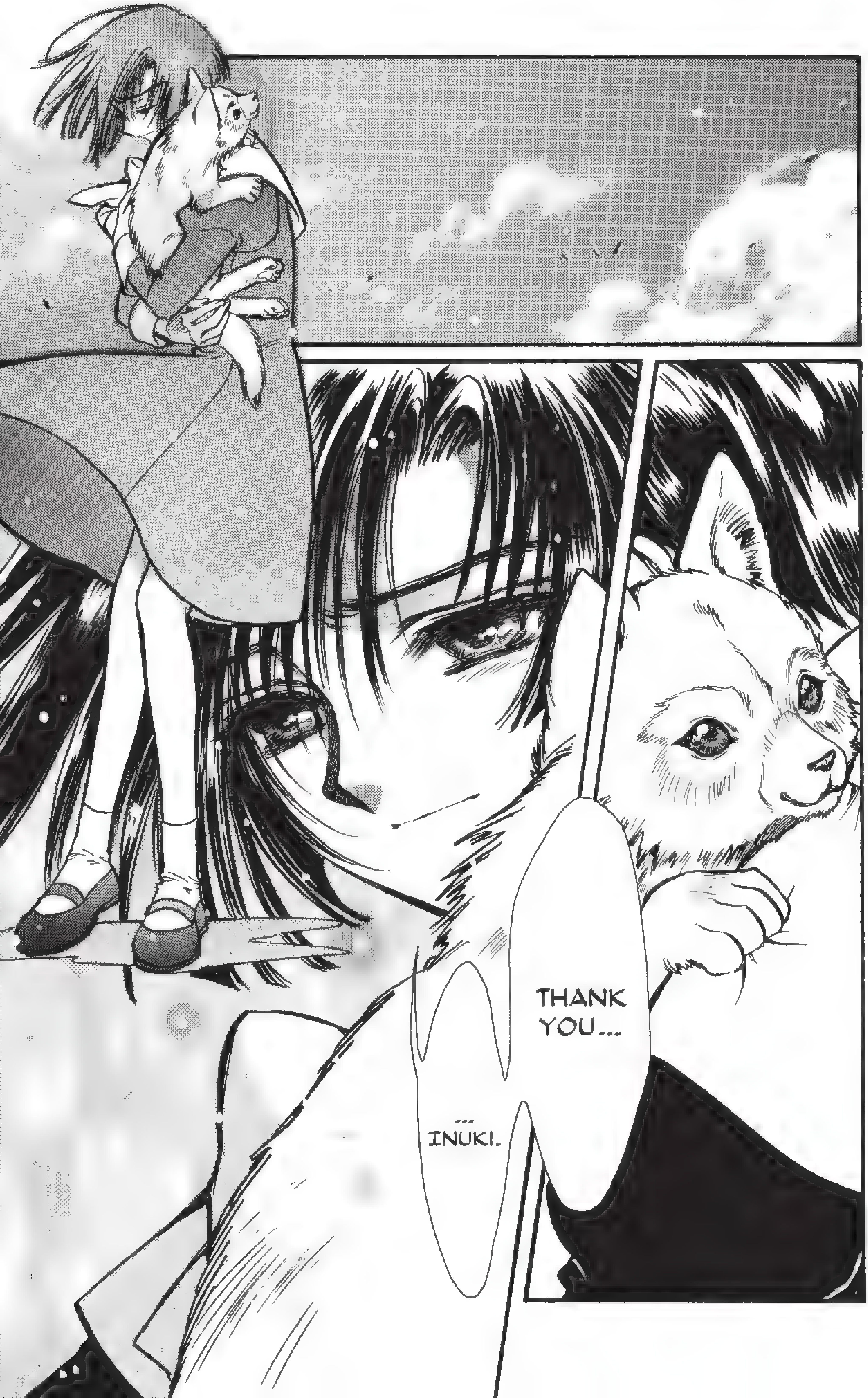

SHAAAA
ZW
ZA

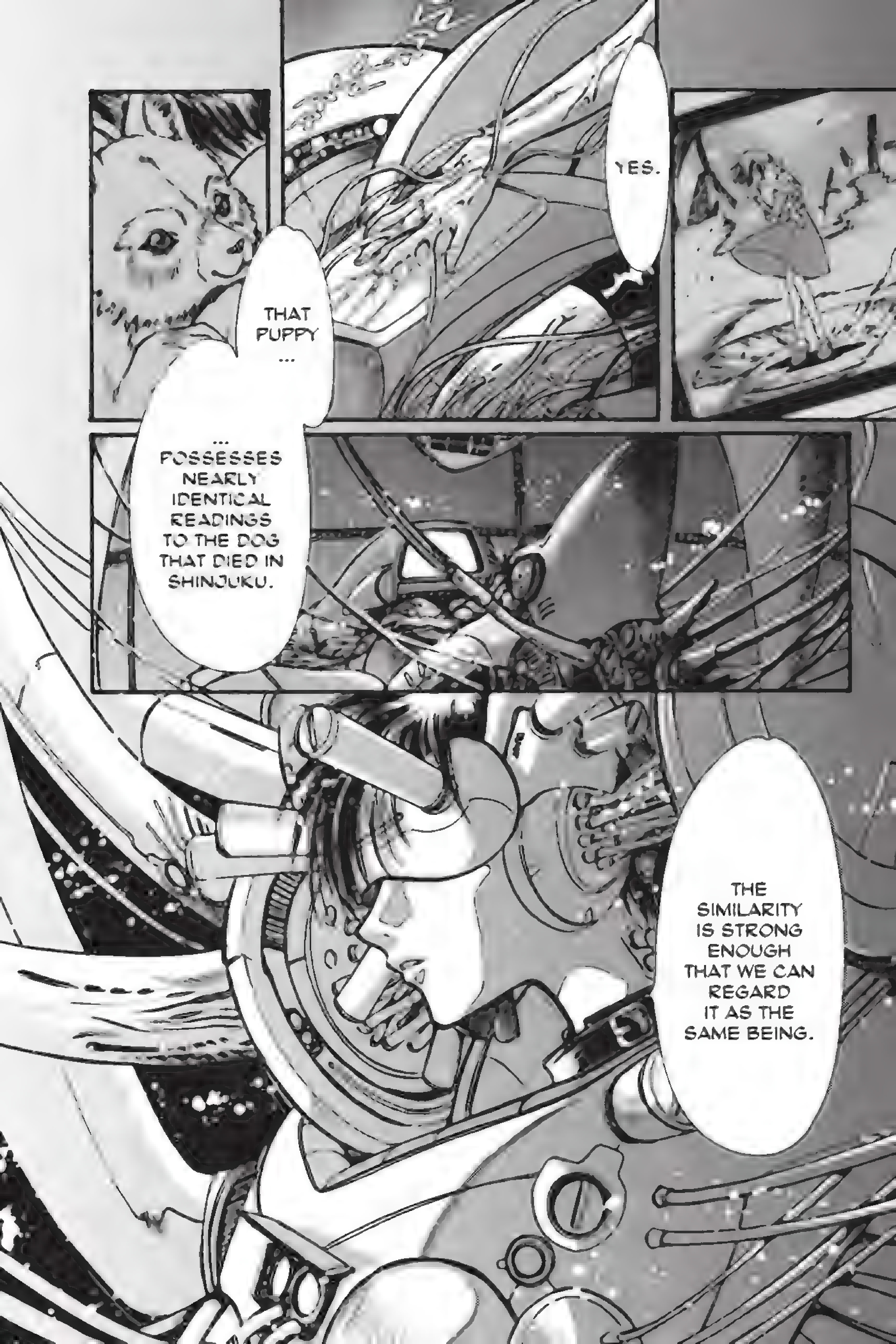

I- INUKI ...?
BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM
SHAHAAAAAAAA
FSSSSSS

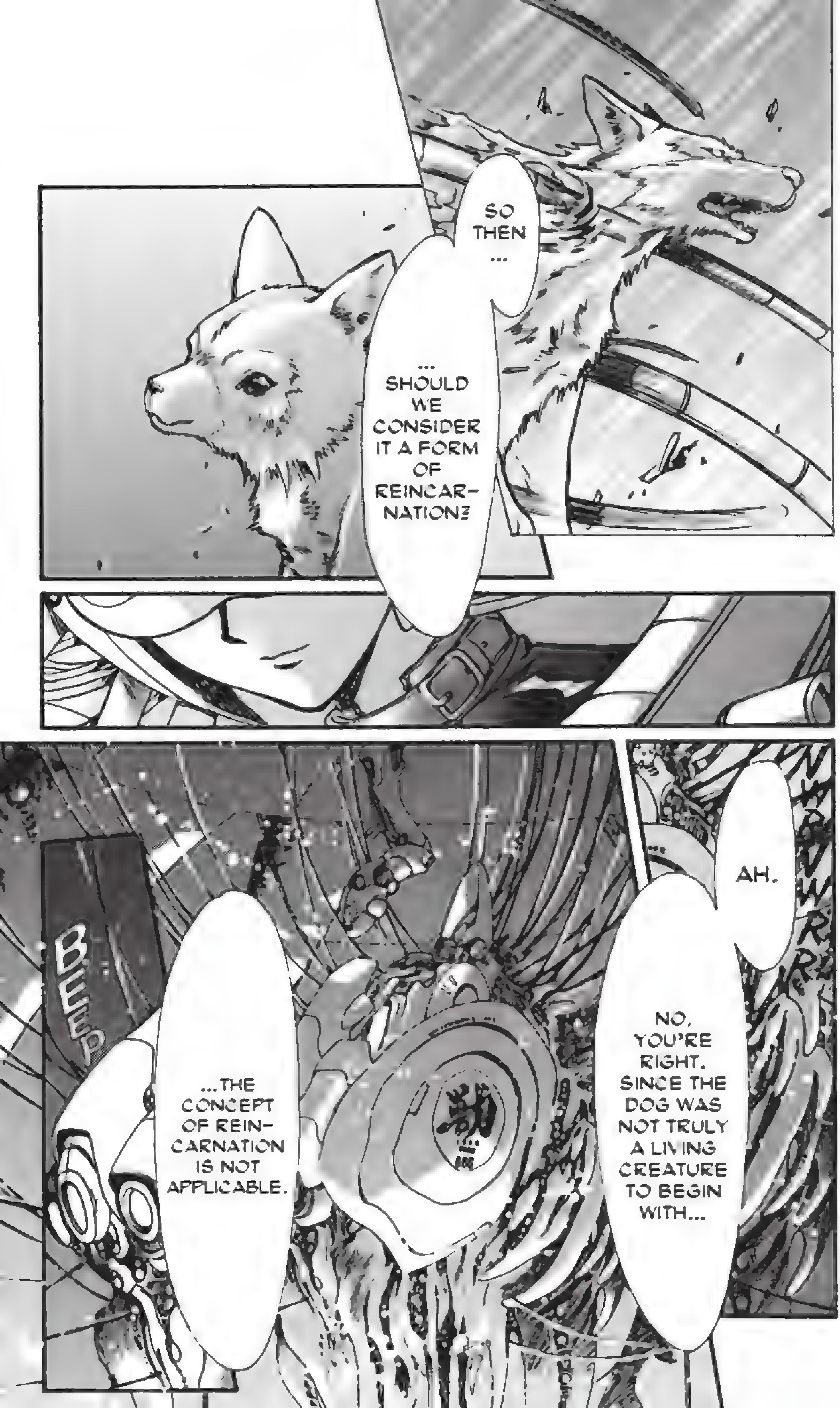

ZWOOSH
AP

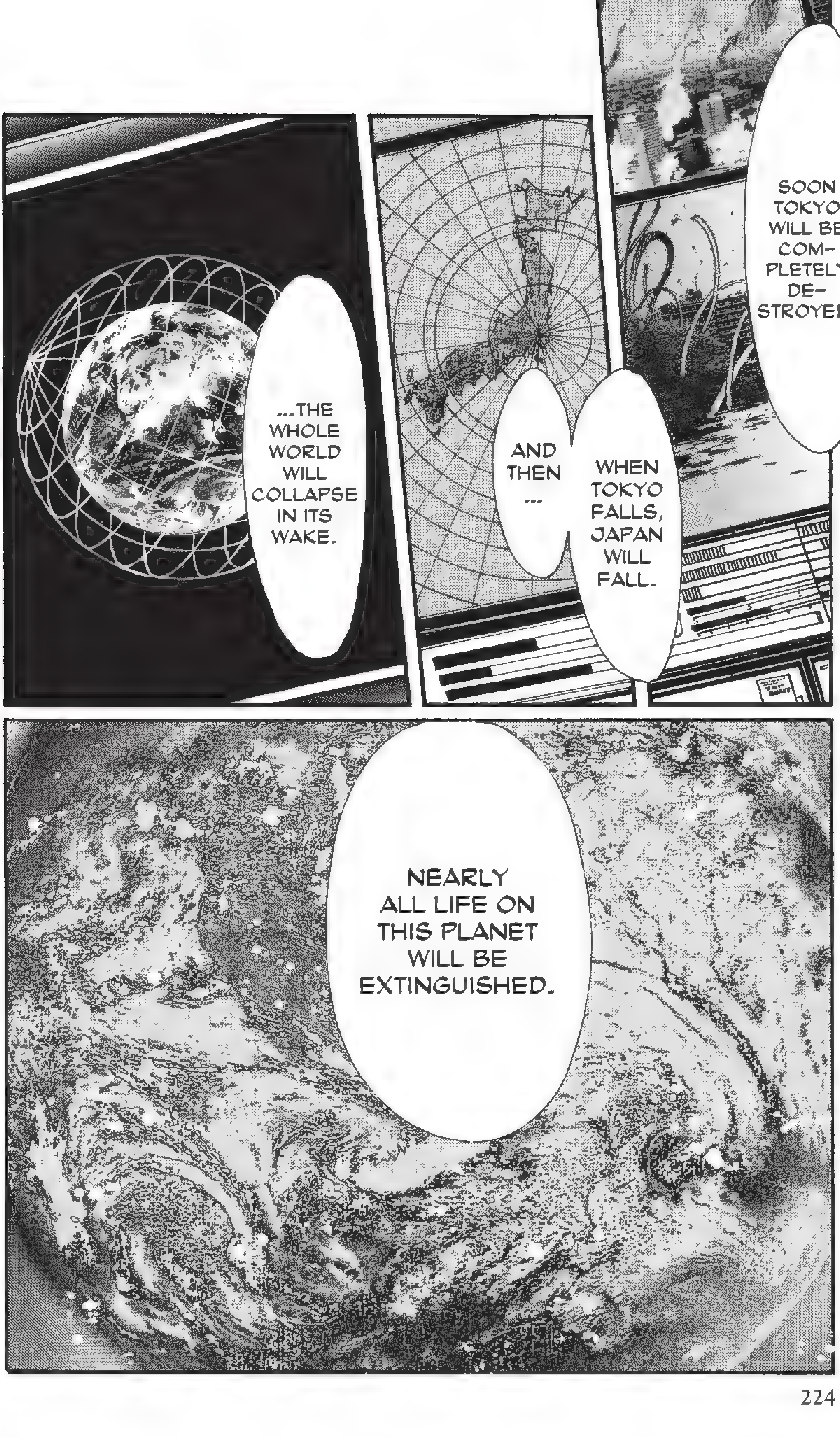


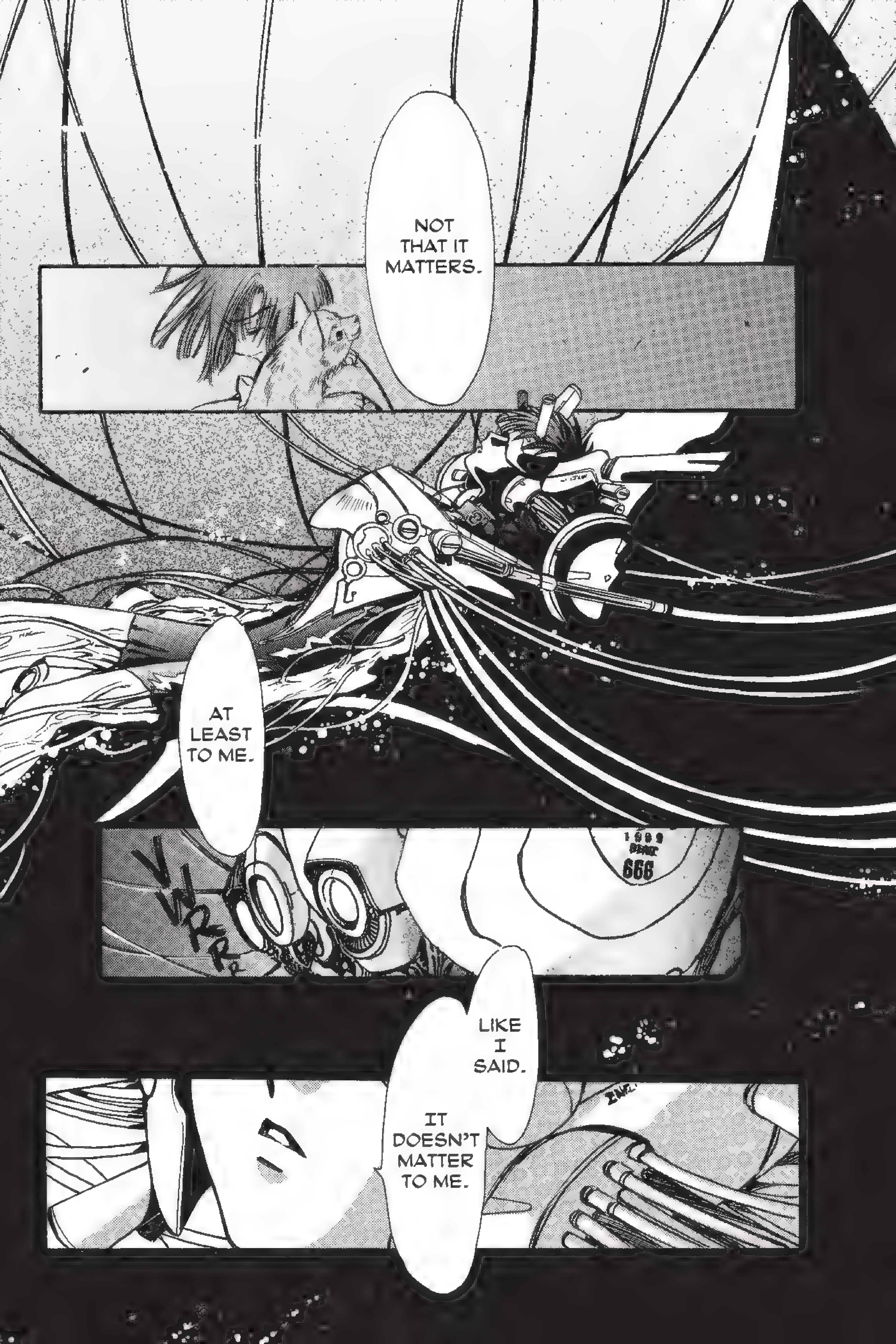

ZAZASH
SHAAAAAAA
SWISH

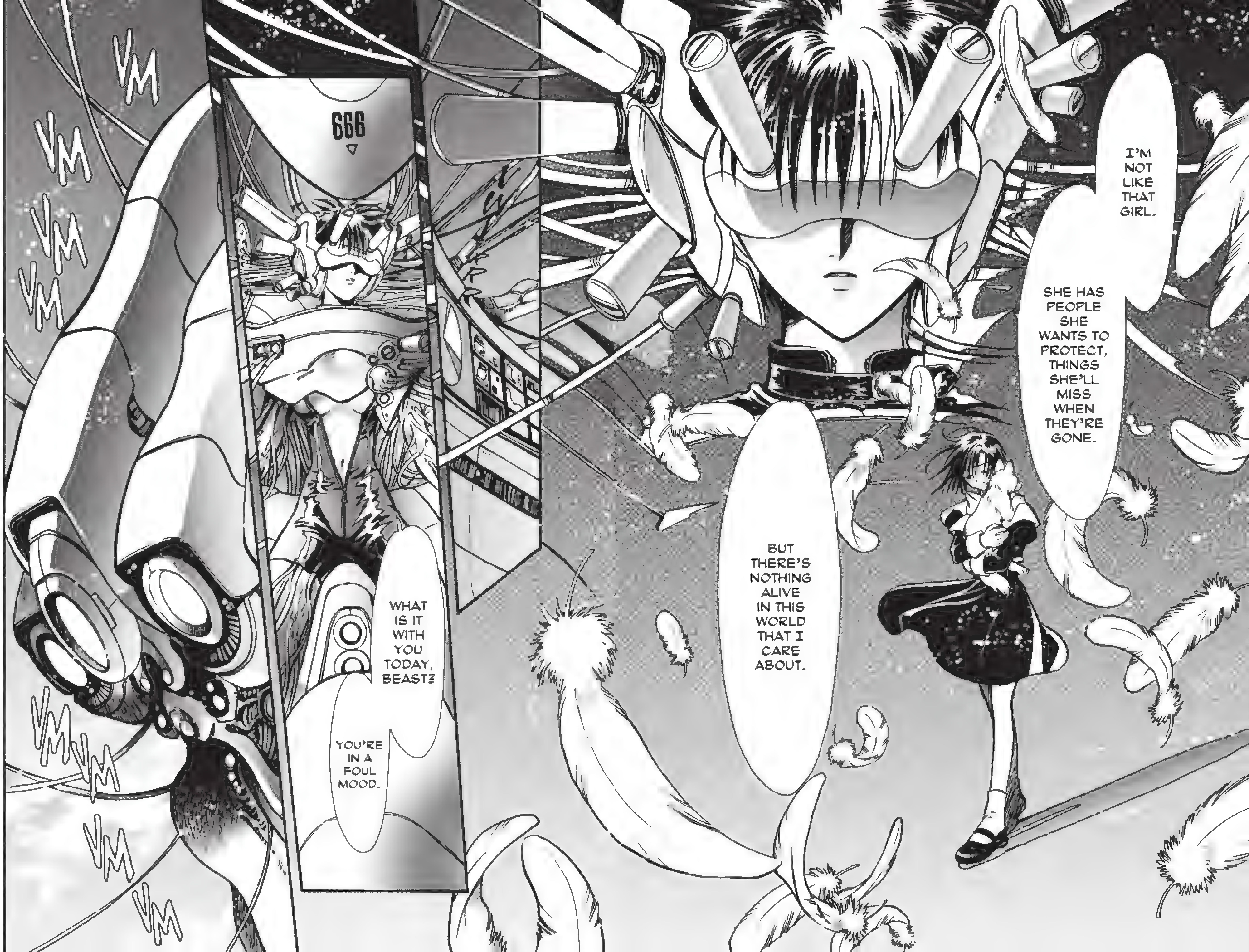

THANK YOU...
...INUKI.

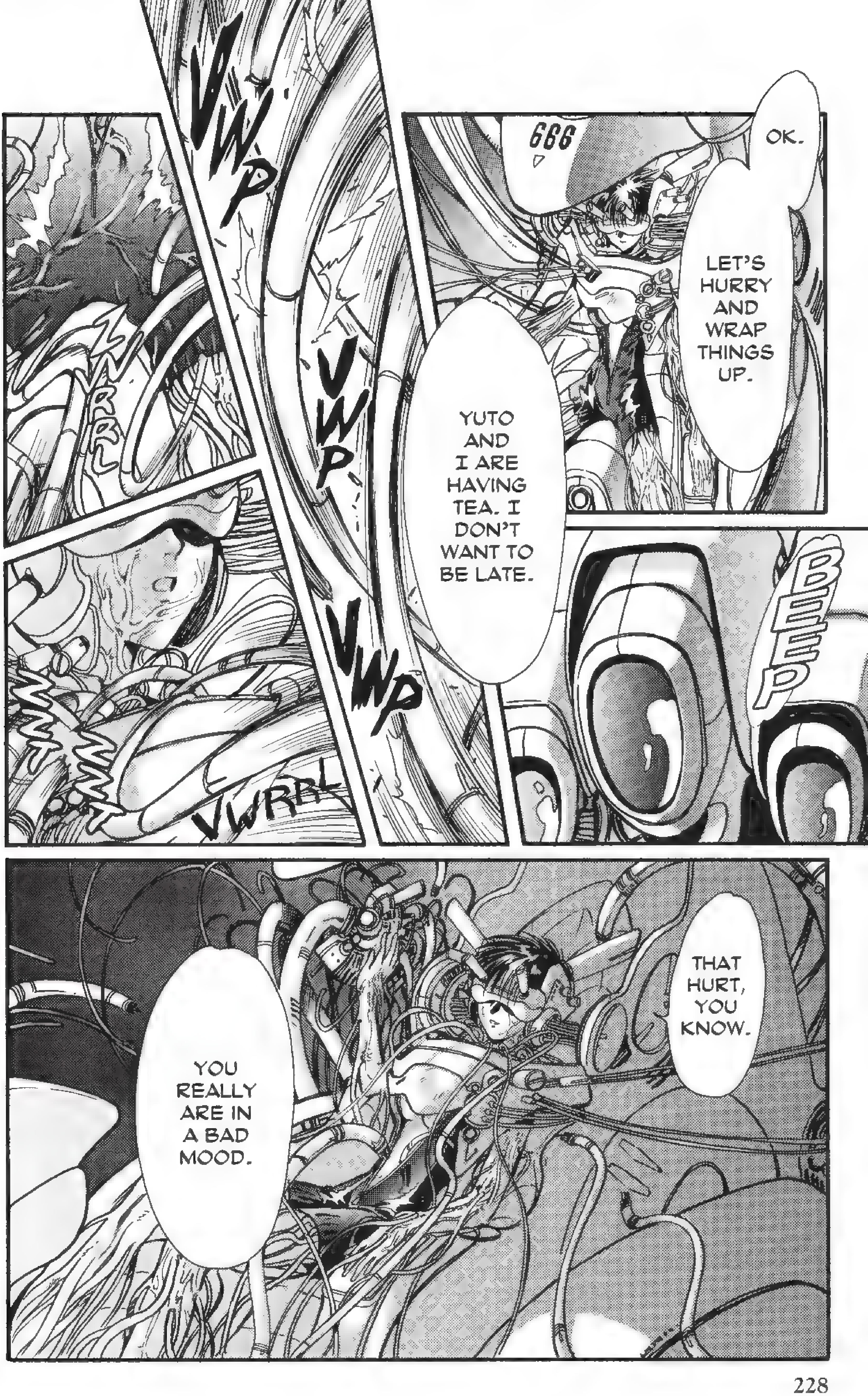

YES.
THAT PUPPY ...
... POSSESSES NEARLY IDENTICAL READINGS TO THE DOG THAT DIED IN SHINJUKU.
THE SIMILARITY IS STRONG ENOUGH THAT WE CAN REGARD IT AS THE SAME BEING.

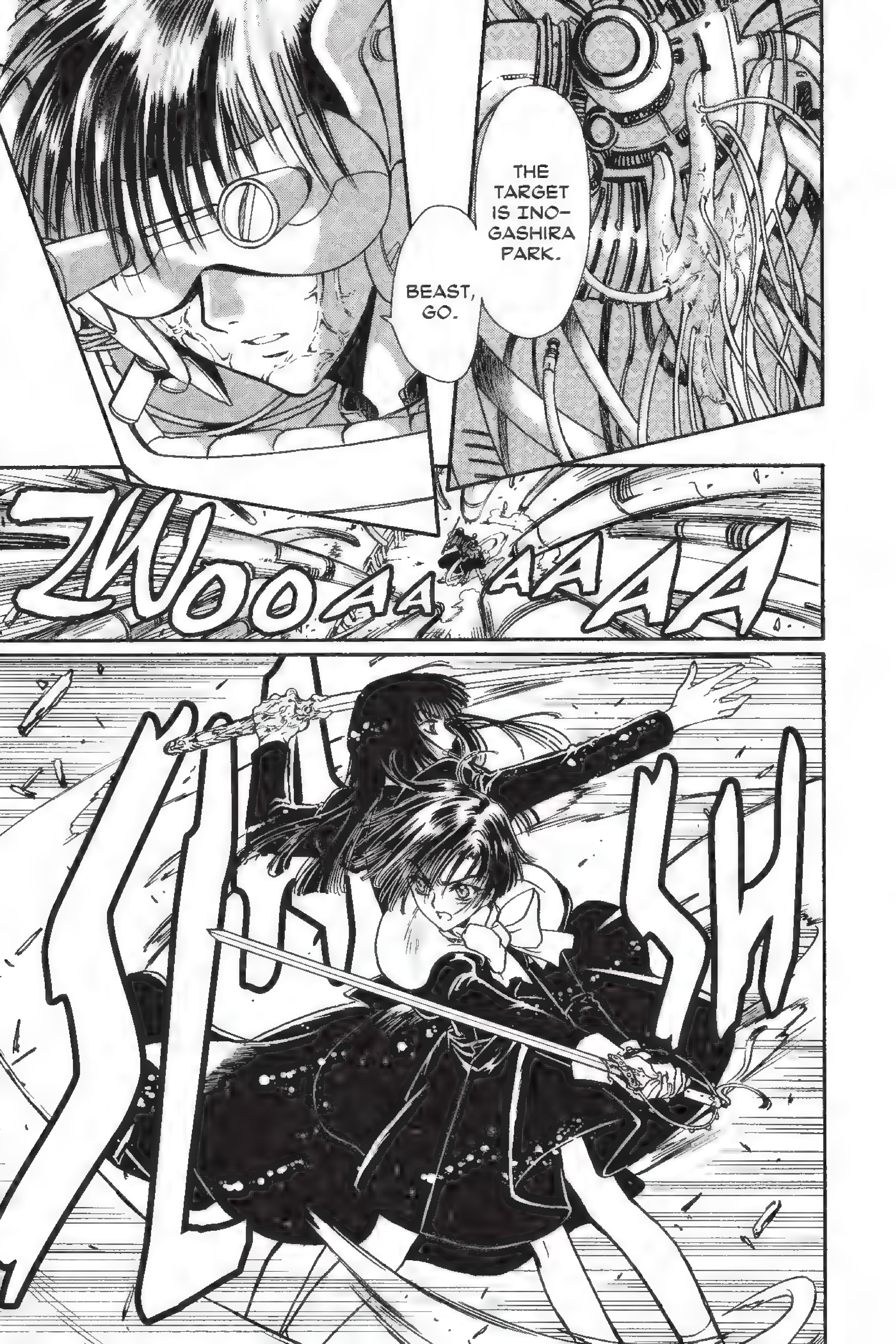

SO THEN ...
... SHOULD WE CONSIDER IT A FORM OF REINCARNATION?
AH.
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT. SINCE THE DOG WAS NOT TRULY A LIVING CREATURE TO BEGIN WITH...
...THE CONCEPT OF REINCARNATION IS NOT APPLICABLE.
BEEP

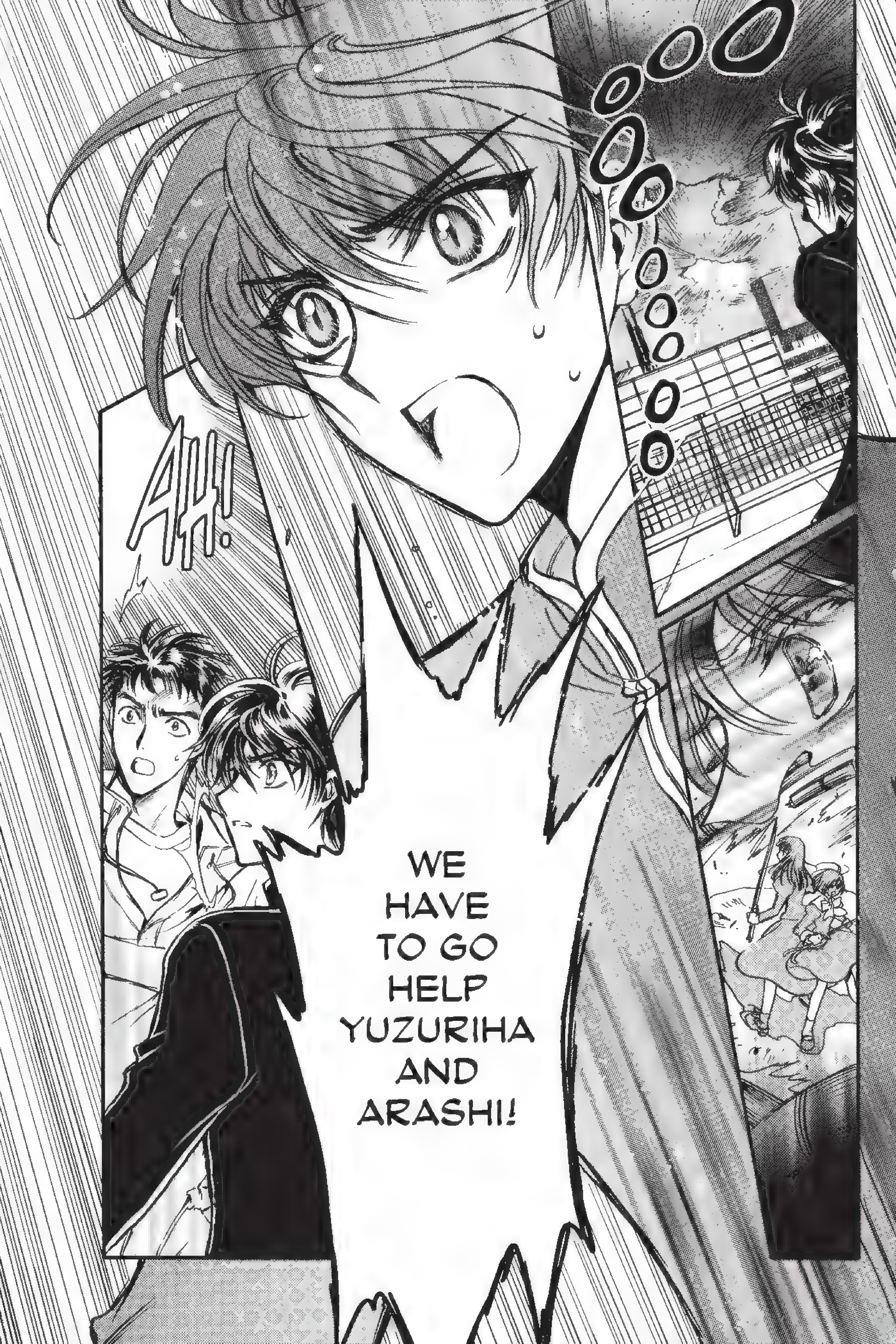

SOON TOKYO WILL BE COMPLETELY DESTROYED.
WHEN TOKYO FALLS, JAPAN WILL FALL.
AND THEN ...
...THE WHOLE WORLD WILL COLLAPSE IN ITS WAKE.
NEARLY ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET WILL BE EXTINGUISHED.

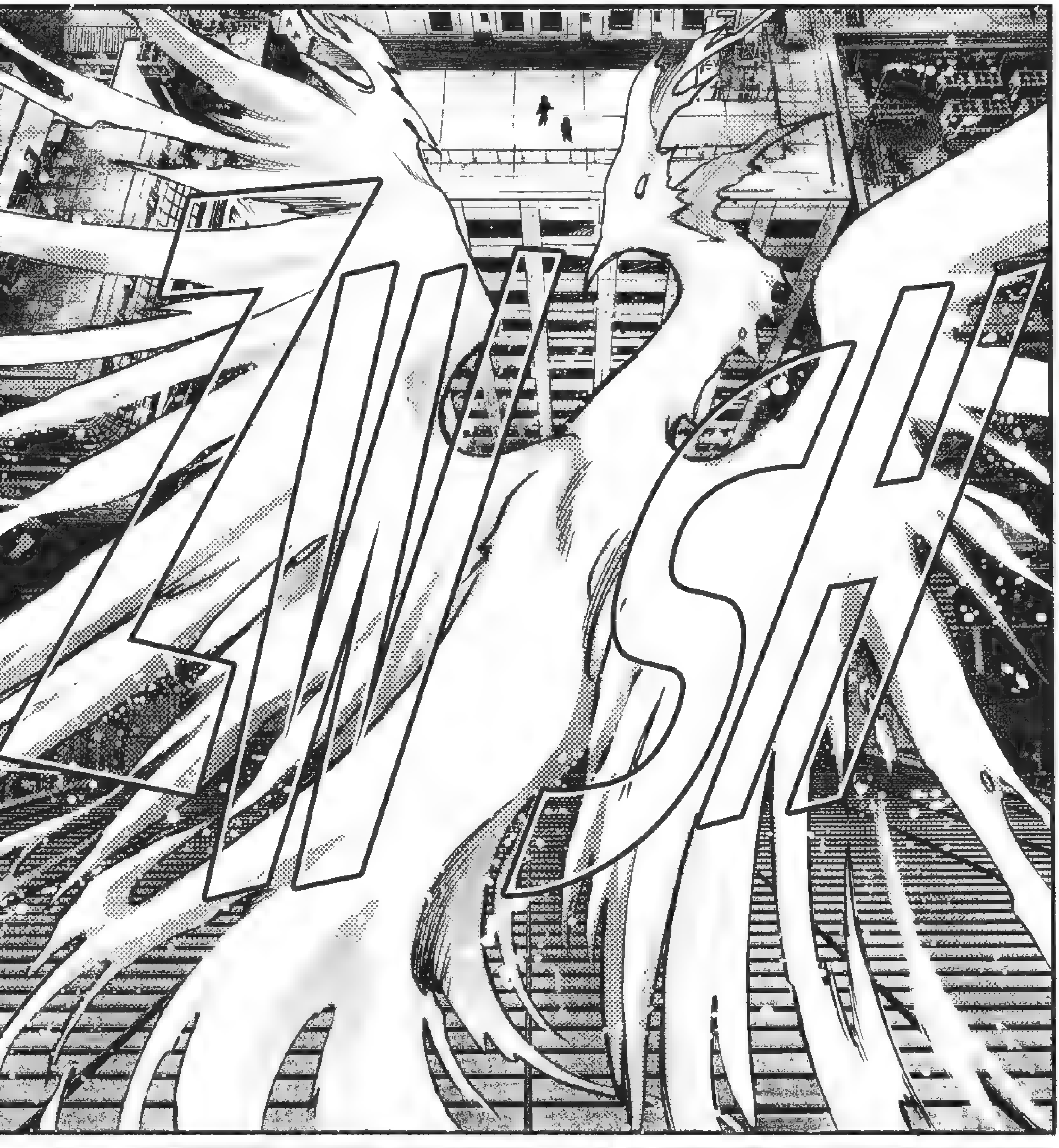

NOT THAT IT MATTERS.
AT LEAST TO ME.
VWRR
666
LIKE I SAID.
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.


I'M NOT LIKE THAT GIRL.
SHE HAS PEOPLE SHE WANTS TO PROTECT, THINGS SHE'LL MISS WHEN THEY'RE GONE.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING ALIVE IN THIS WORLD THAT I CARE ABOUT.
666
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU TODAY, BEAST?
YOU'RE IN A FOUL MOOD.
VM VM VM VM VM
VM VM VM VM

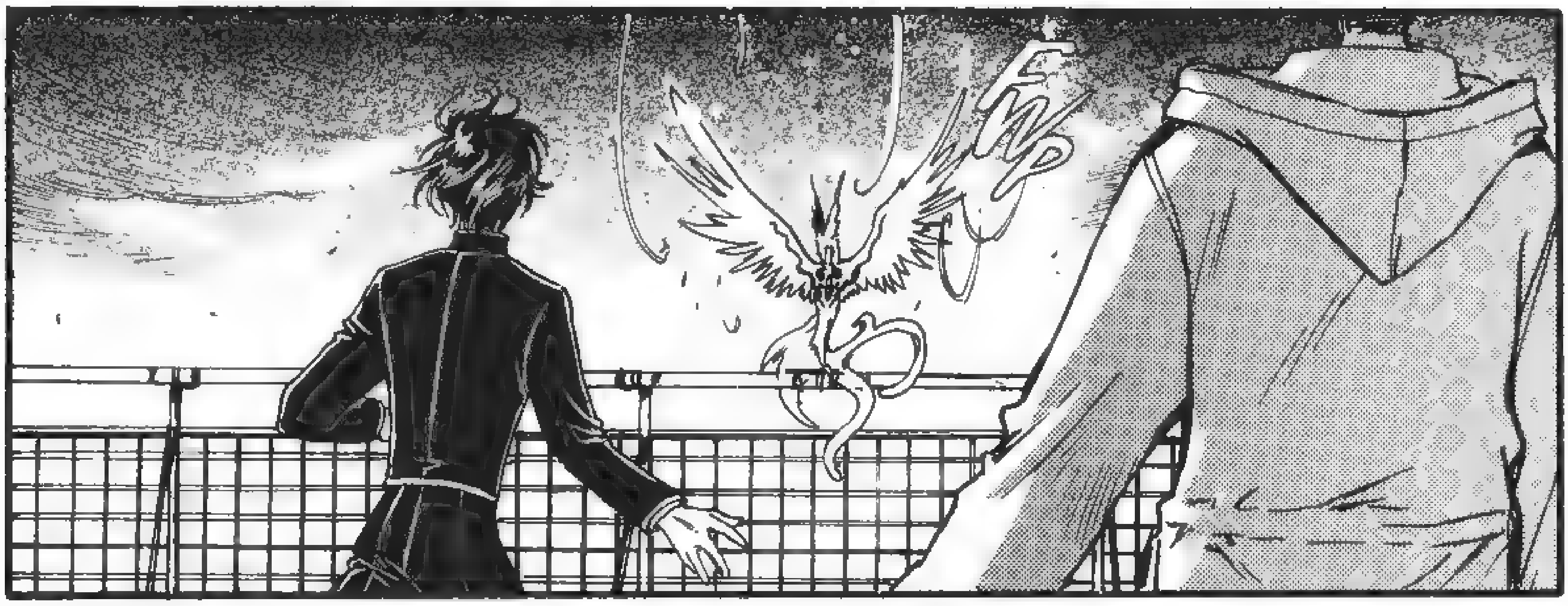

666
OK.
LET'S HURRY AND WRAP THINGS UP.
YUTO AND I ARE HAVING TEA. I DON'T WANT TO BE LATE.
BEEP
VWP
VWP
VWP
VWP
VWRRL
WNNT
WNNT
VWRRL
THAT HURT, YOU KNOW.
YOU REALLY ARE IN A BAD MOOD.

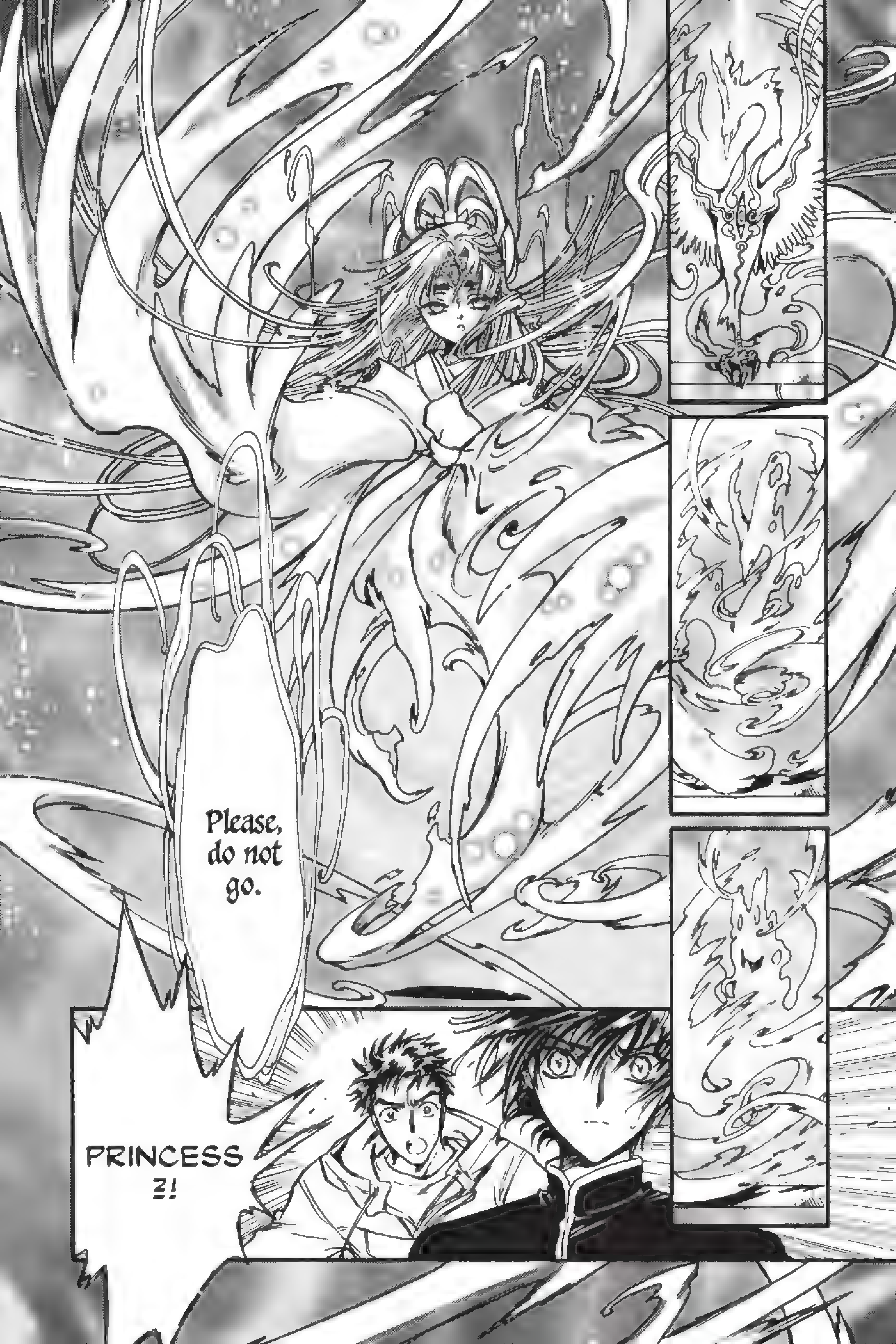

THE TARGET IS INOGASHIRA PARK.
BEAST, GO.
WOOAAAAAA
SWASH

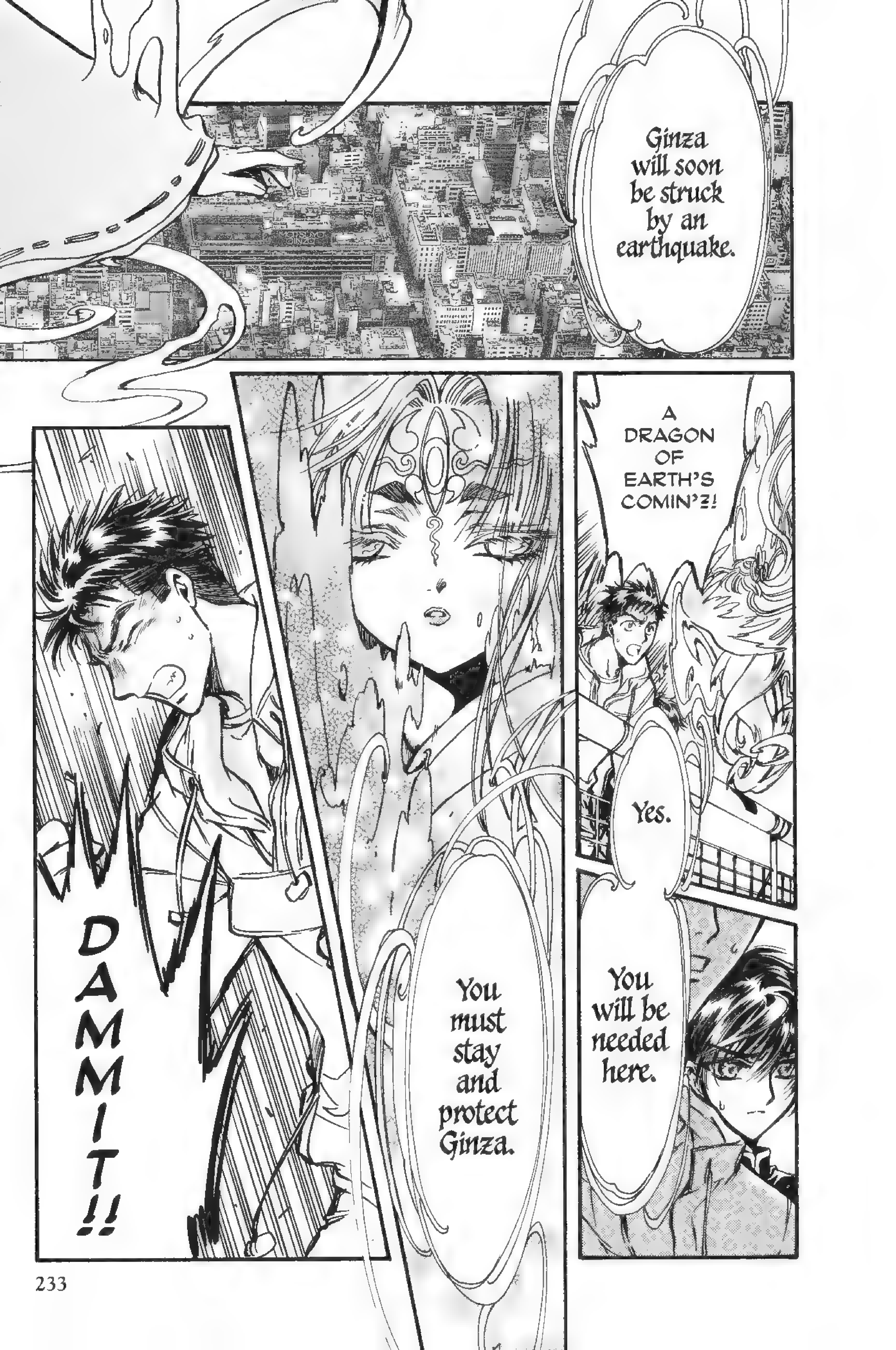

AH!
WE HAVE TO GO HELP YUZURIHA AND ARASHI!

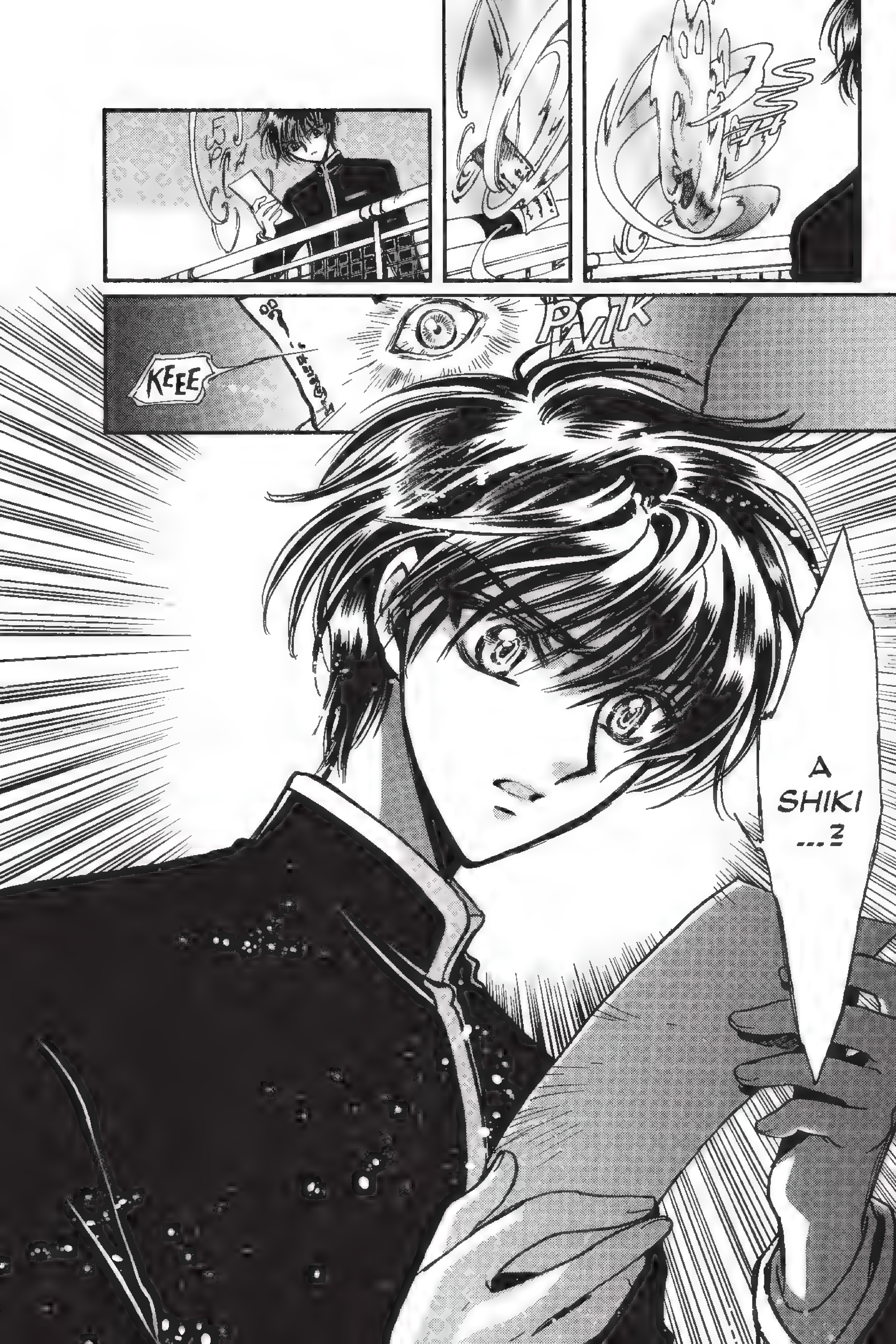


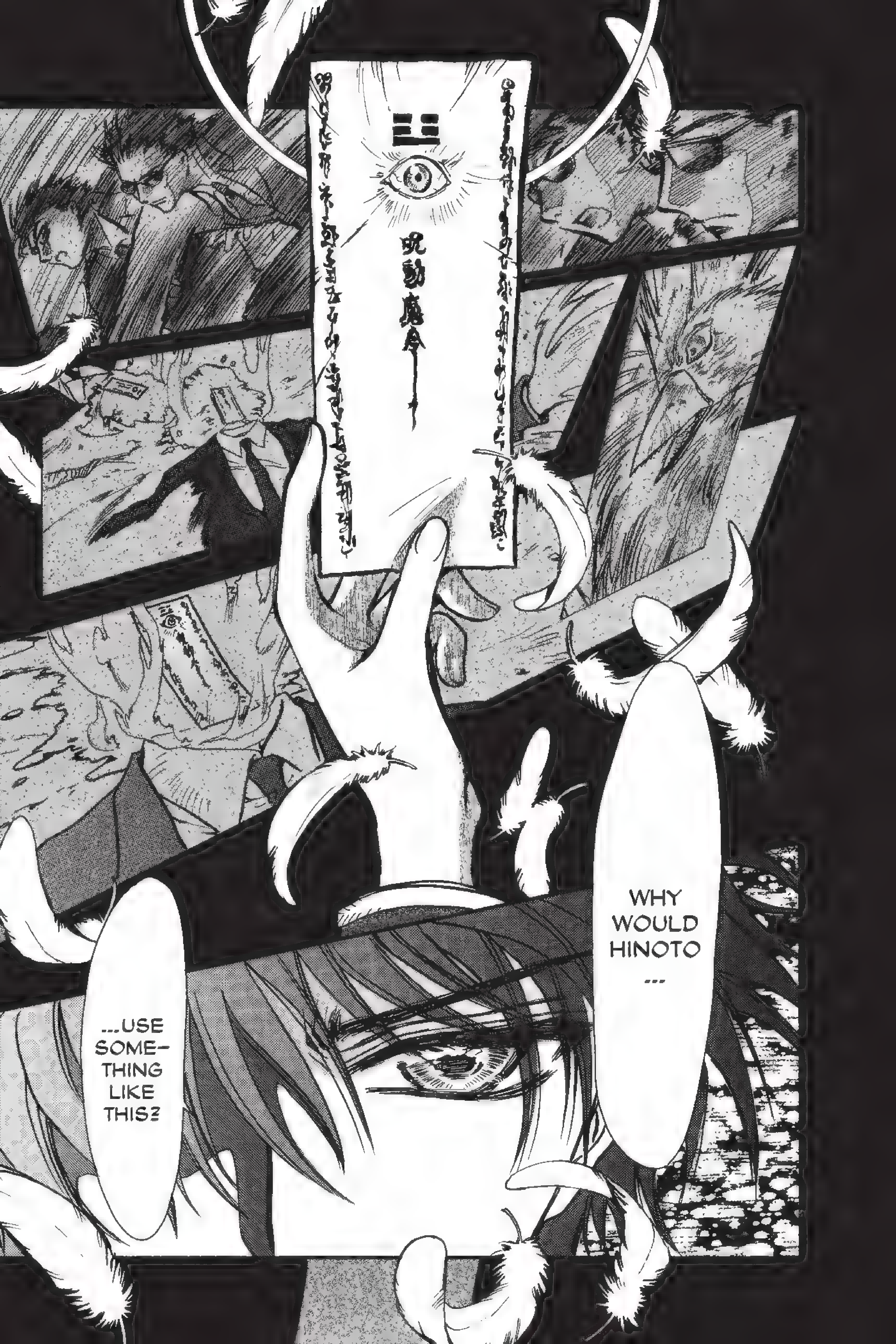
ZWISH

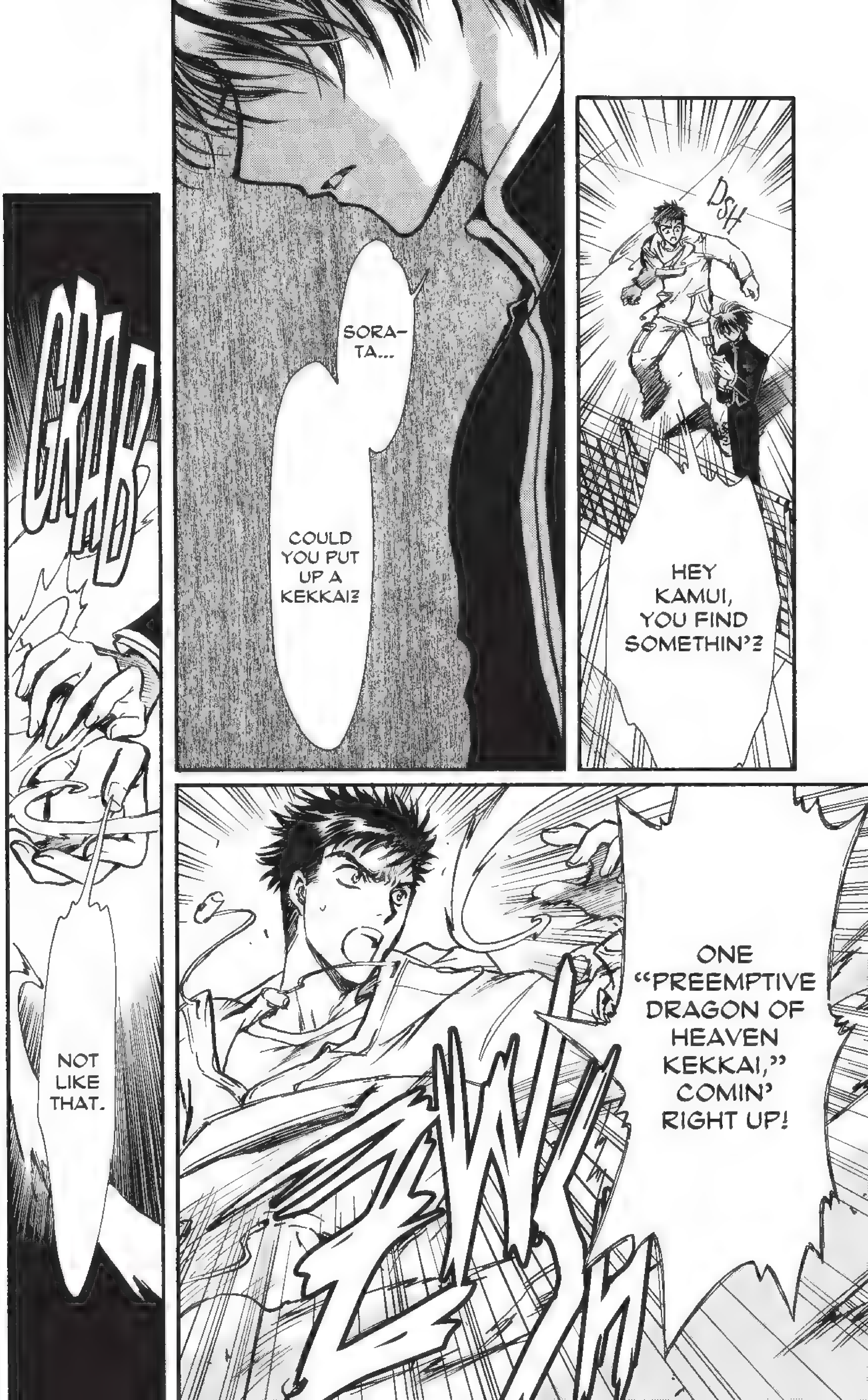


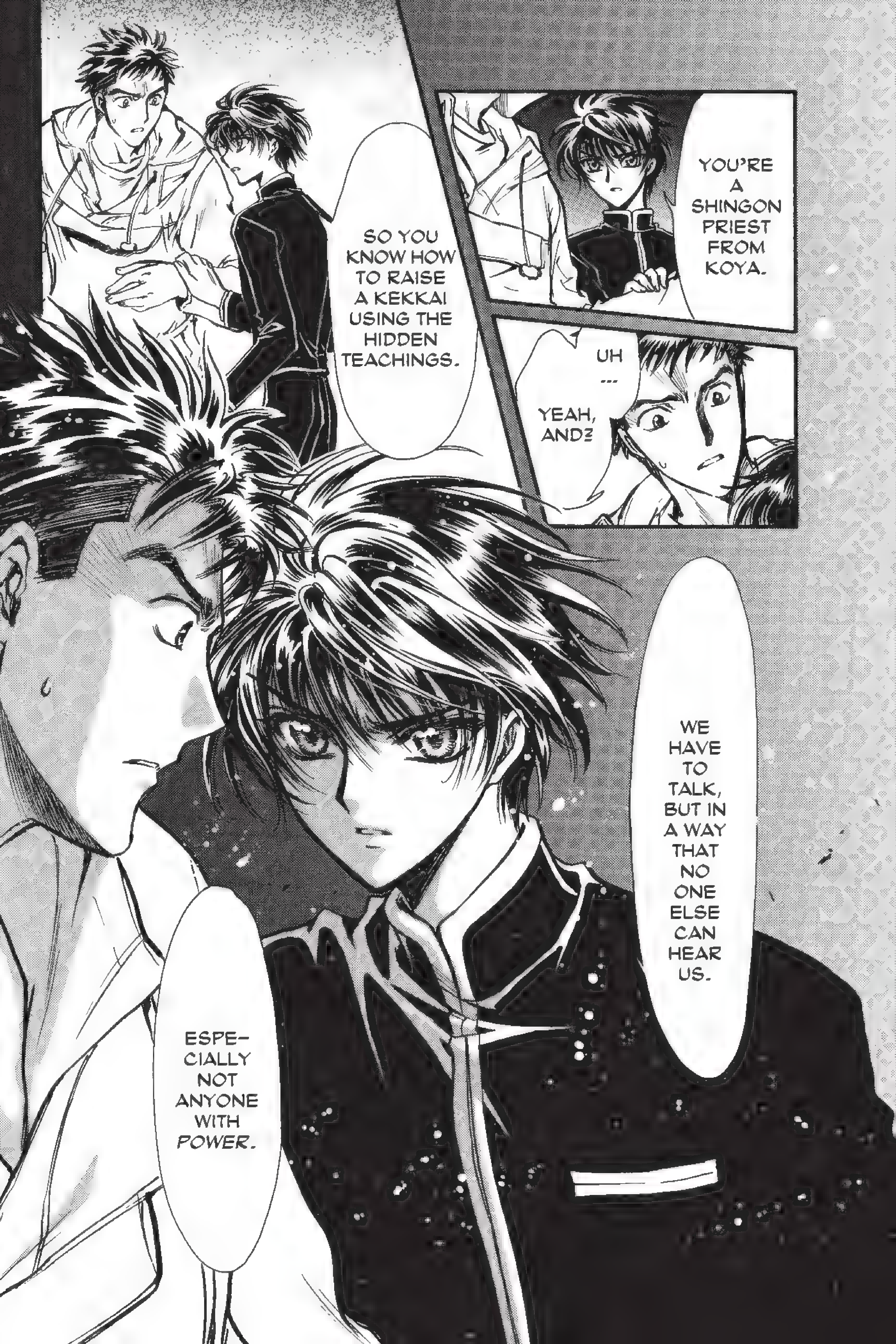

Please, do not go.
PRINCESS ?!

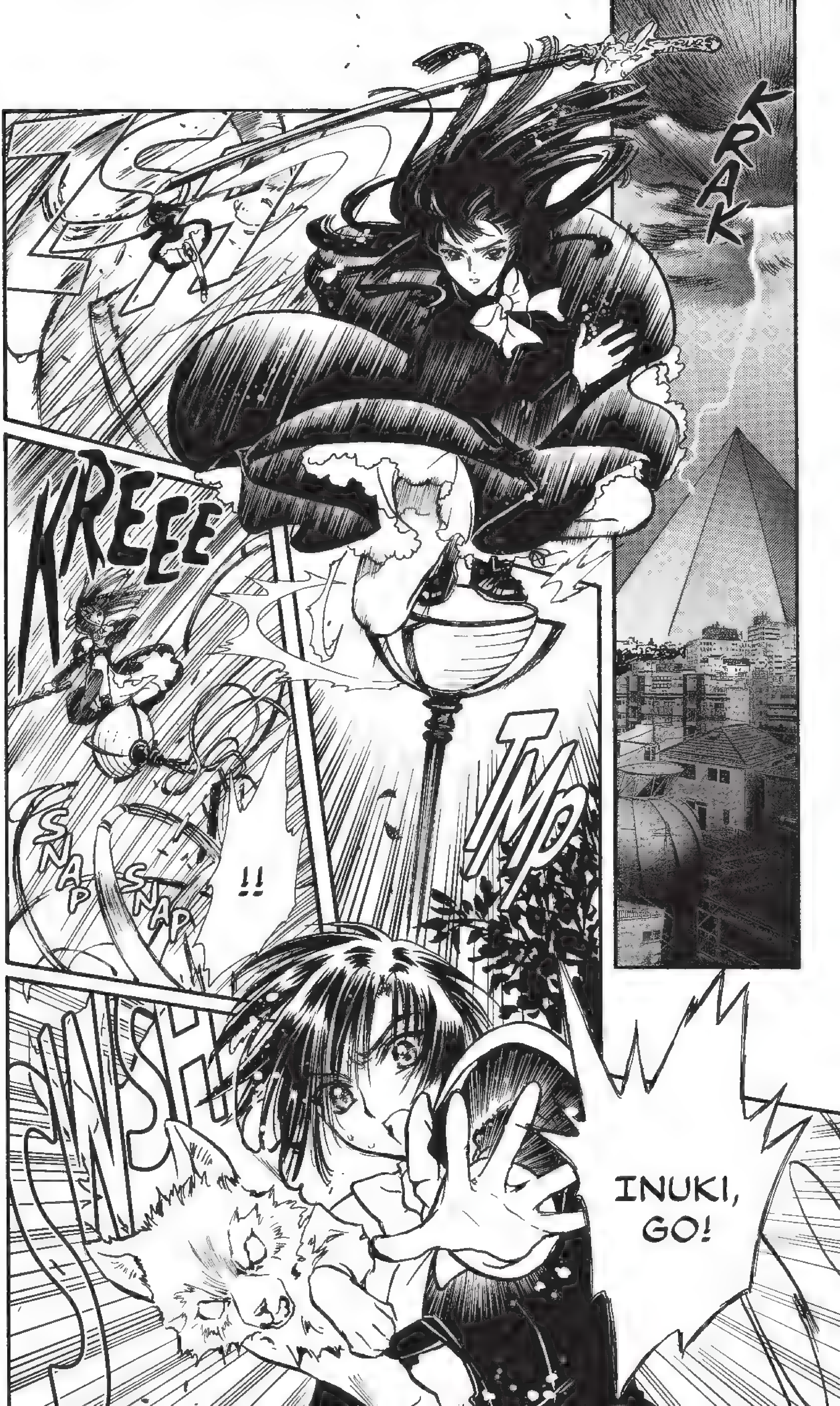

Ginza will soon be struck by an earthquake.
A DRAGON OF EARTH'S COMIN'?!
Yes.
You will be needed here.
You must stay and protect Ginza.
DAMMIT!!

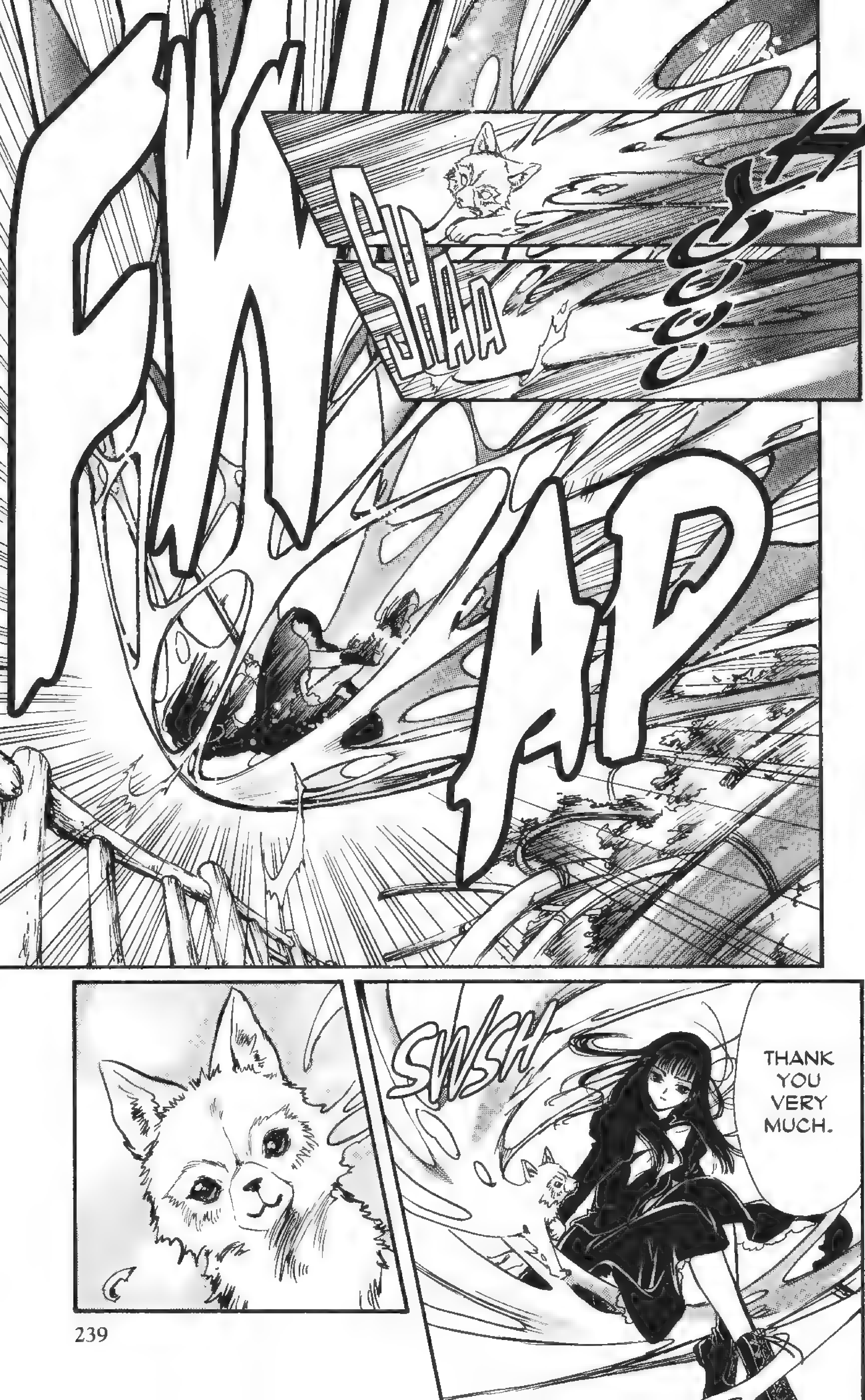

FWP
PWIK
KEEE
A SHIKI ...?

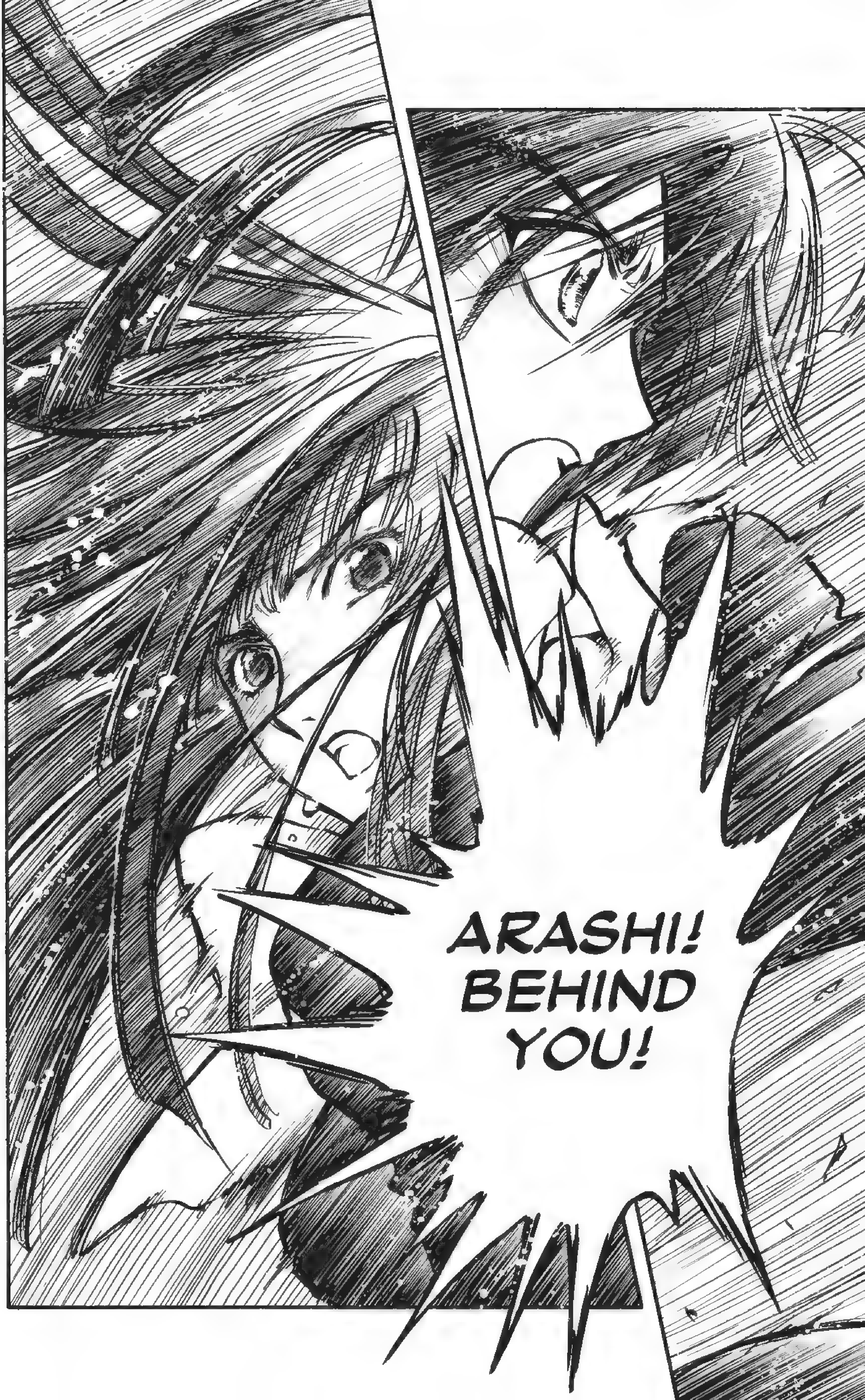

呪動魔令
WHY WOULD HINOTO...
...USE SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

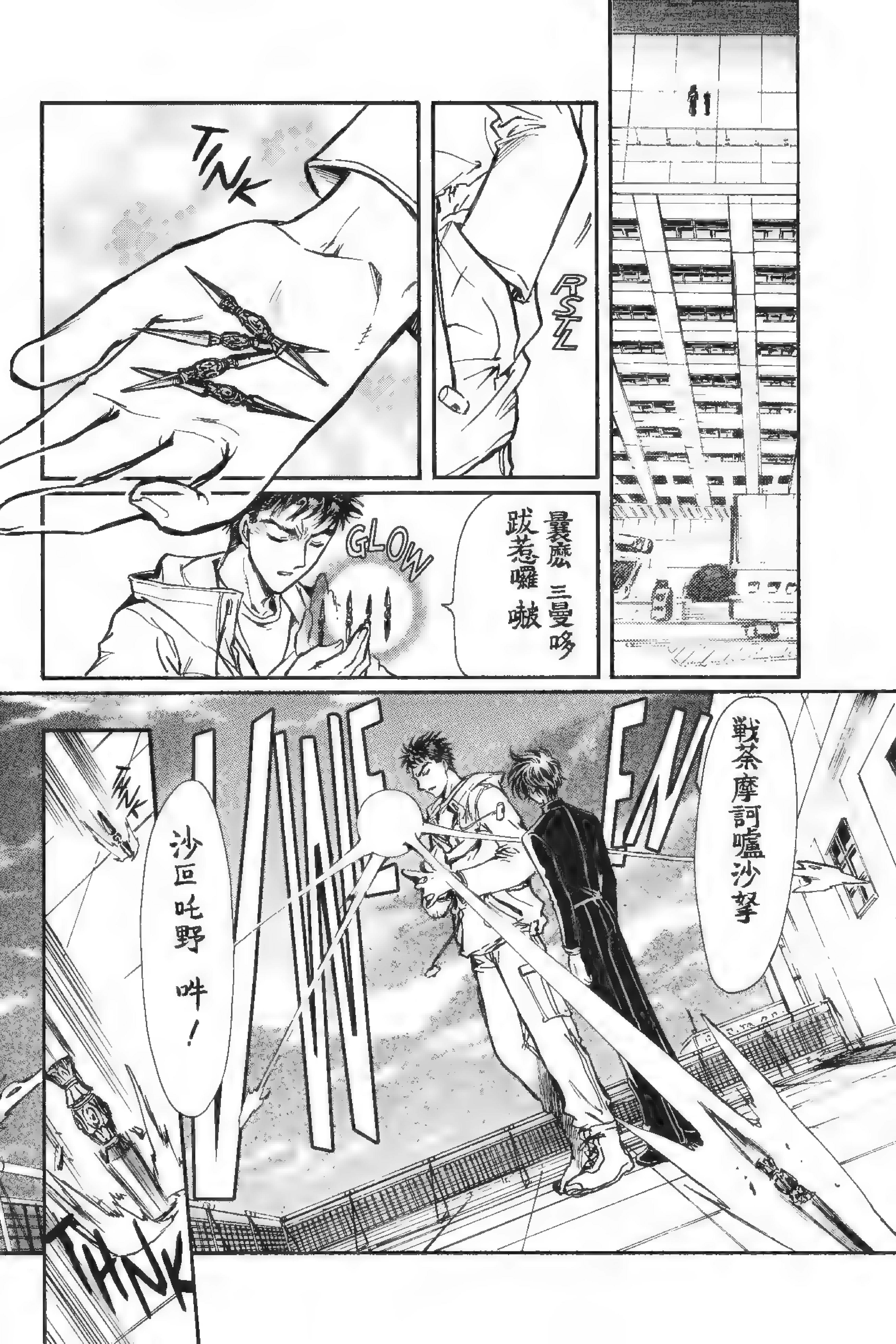

DSH
HEY KAMUI, YOU FIND SOMETHIN'?
SORA-TA...
COULD YOU PUT UP A KEKKAI?
ONE "PREEMPTIVE DRAGON OF HEAVEN KEKKAI," COMIN' RIGHT UP!
ZWM
GRAB
NOT LIKE THAT.

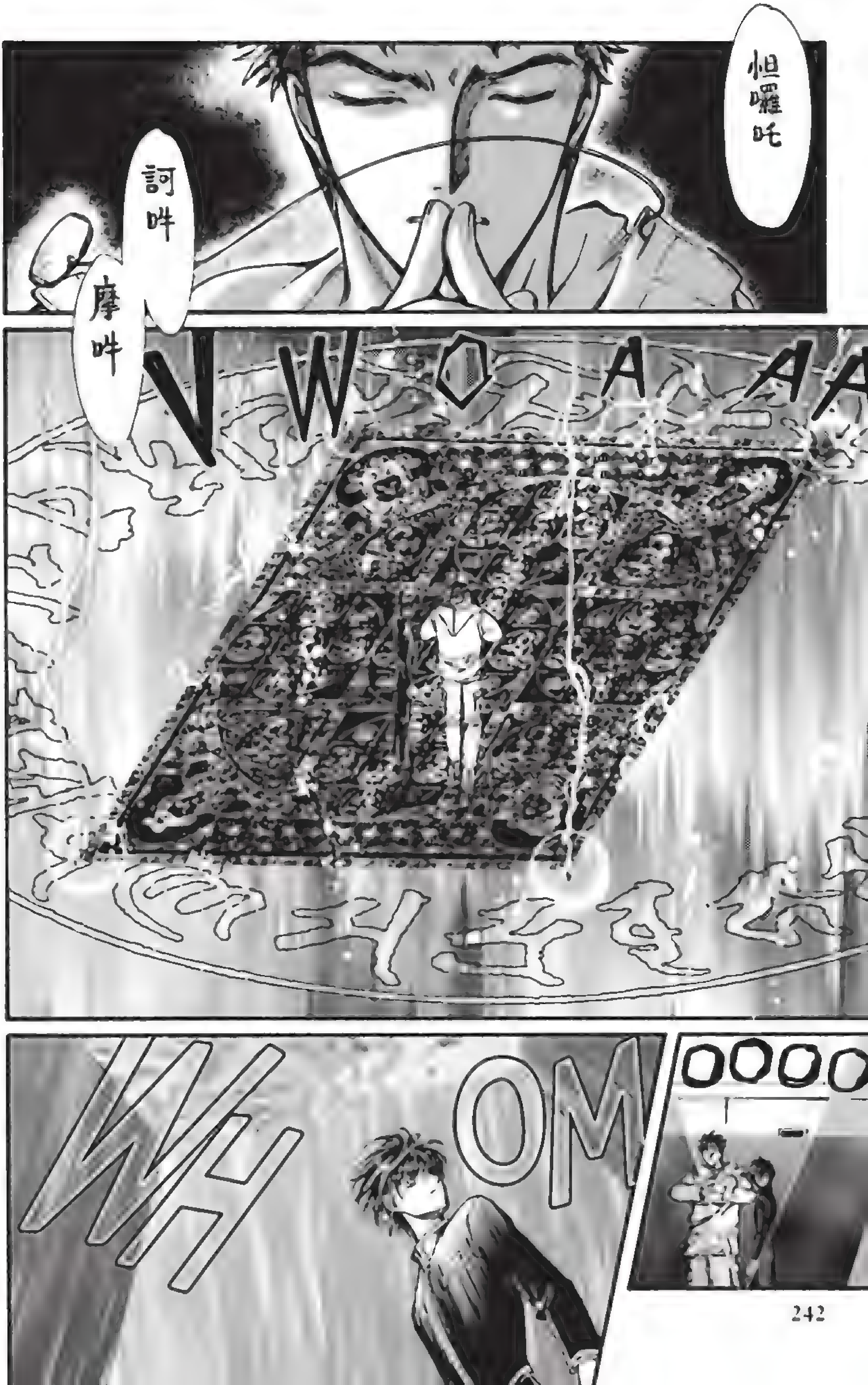

YOU'RE A SHINGON PRIEST FROM KOYA.
SO YOU KNOW HOW TO RAISE A KEKKAI USING THE HIDDEN TEACHINGS.
UH ...
YEAH, AND?
WE HAVE TO TALK, BUT IN A WAY THAT NO ONE ELSE CAN HEAR US.
ESPECIALLY NOT ANYONE WITH *POWER*.

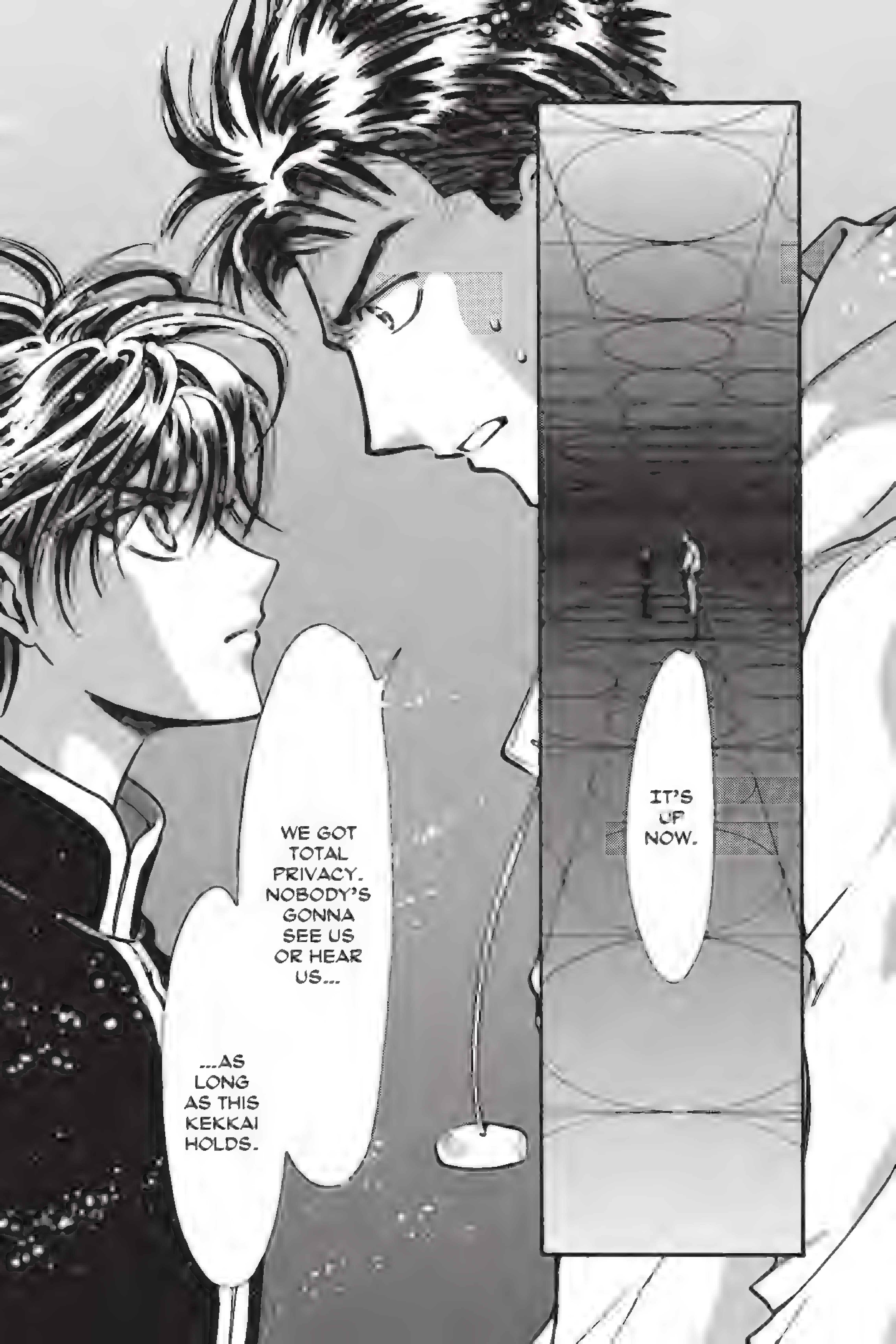

KRAK
KREEE
TMP
SNAP SNAP
!!
SWISH
INUKI, GO!

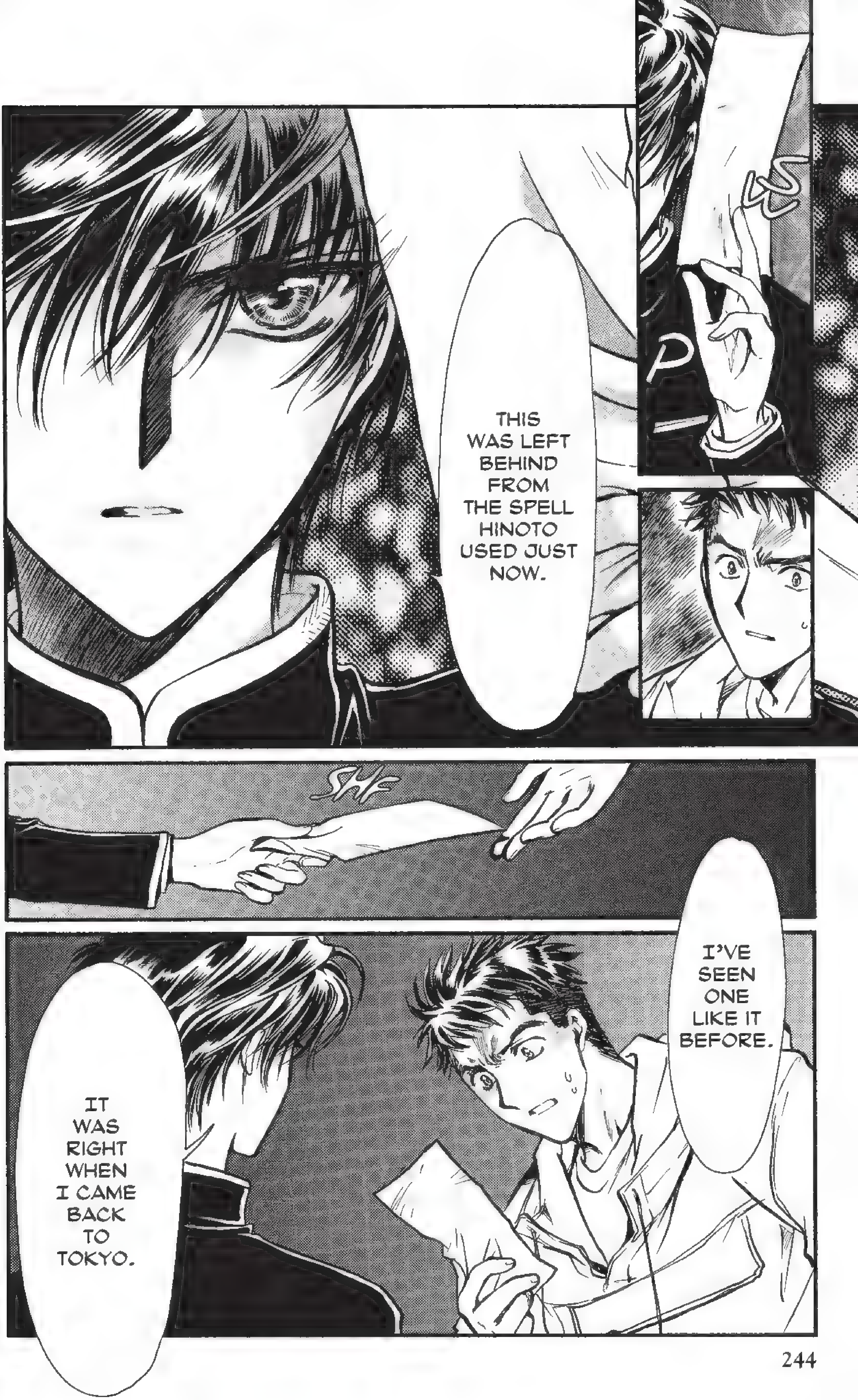

FWAP
SHAAA
COOOOSH!
SWISH
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

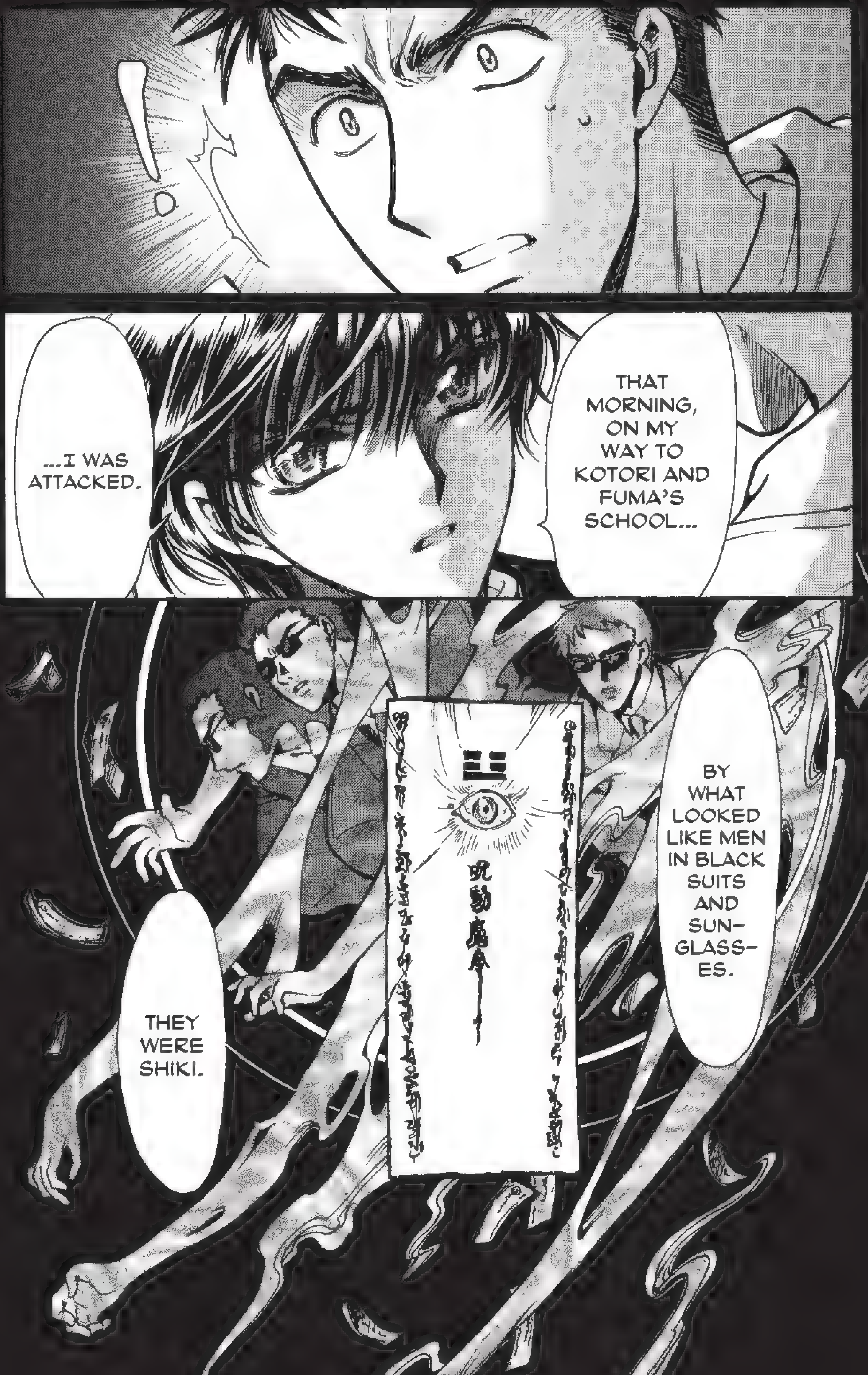

ARASHI! BEHIND YOU!

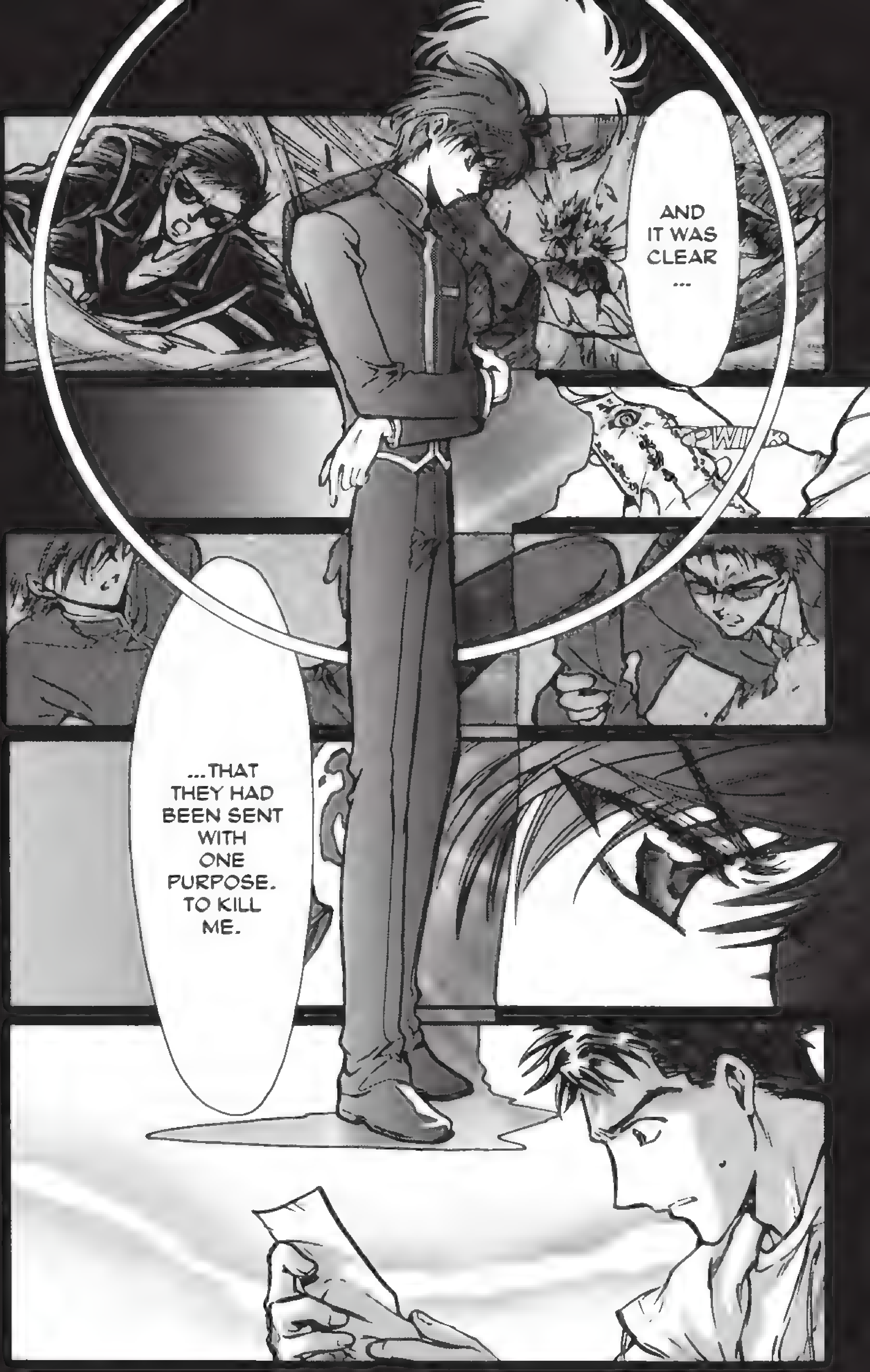

RSTL
TINK
GLOW
曩麼 三曼哆 跋惹囉 赧
戰荼摩訶嚧沙拏
TINK
沙叵吒野 吽！
TINK

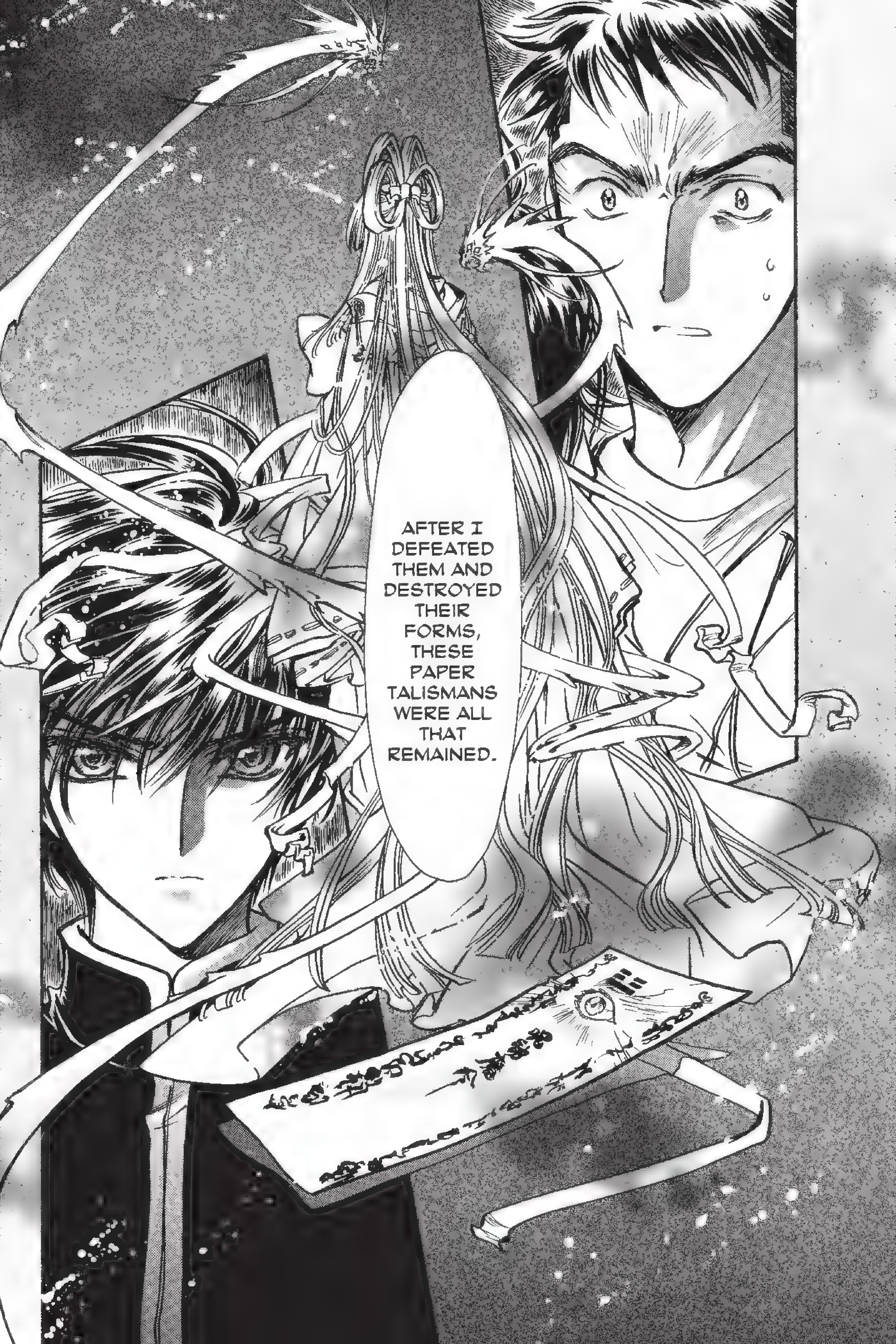

怛囉吒
訶吽
摩吽
NWOAAA
WHOM
OOOO

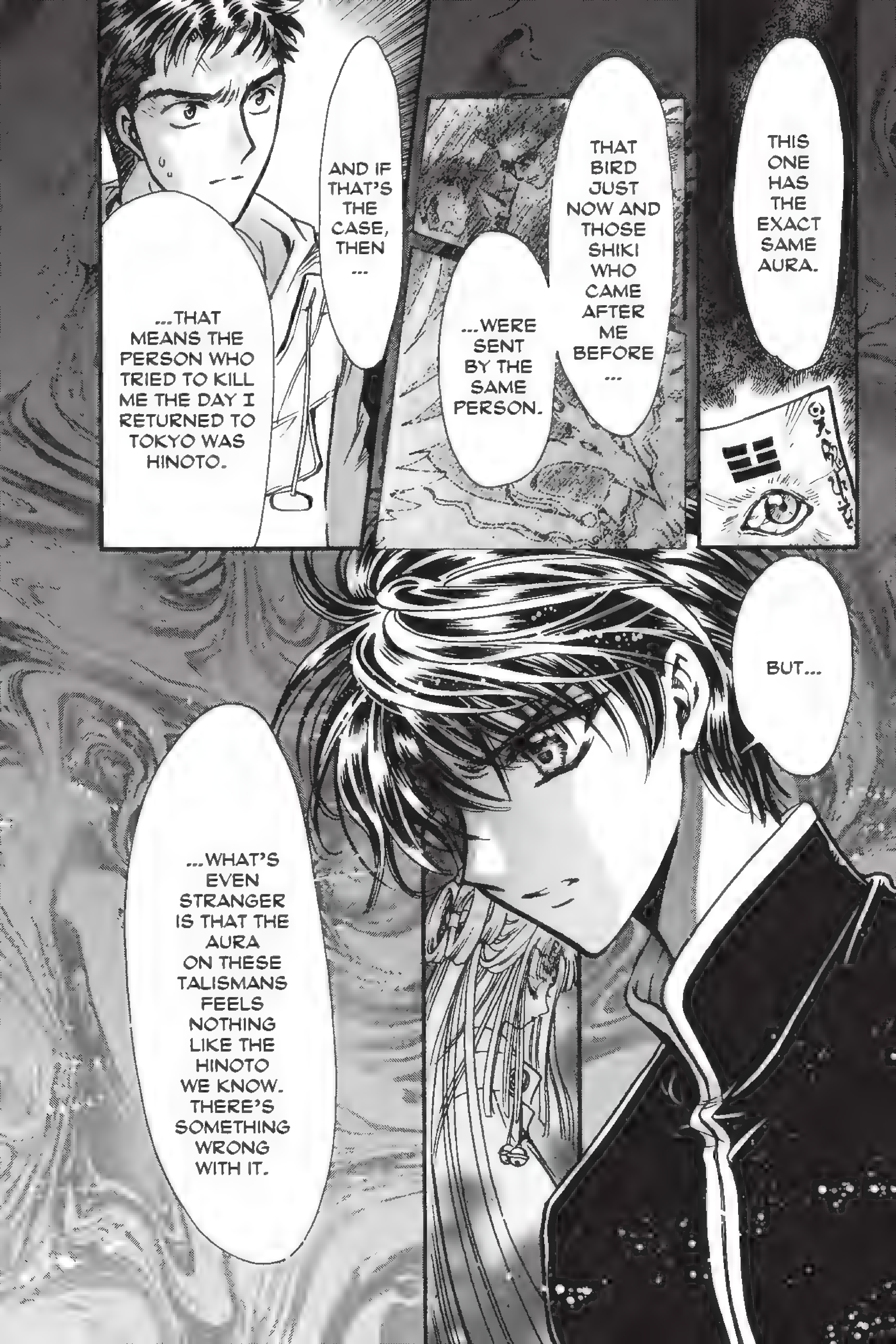

IT'S UP NOW.
WE GOT TOTAL PRIVACY. NOBODY'S GONNA SEE US OR HEAR US...
...AS LONG AS THIS KEKKAI HOLDS.

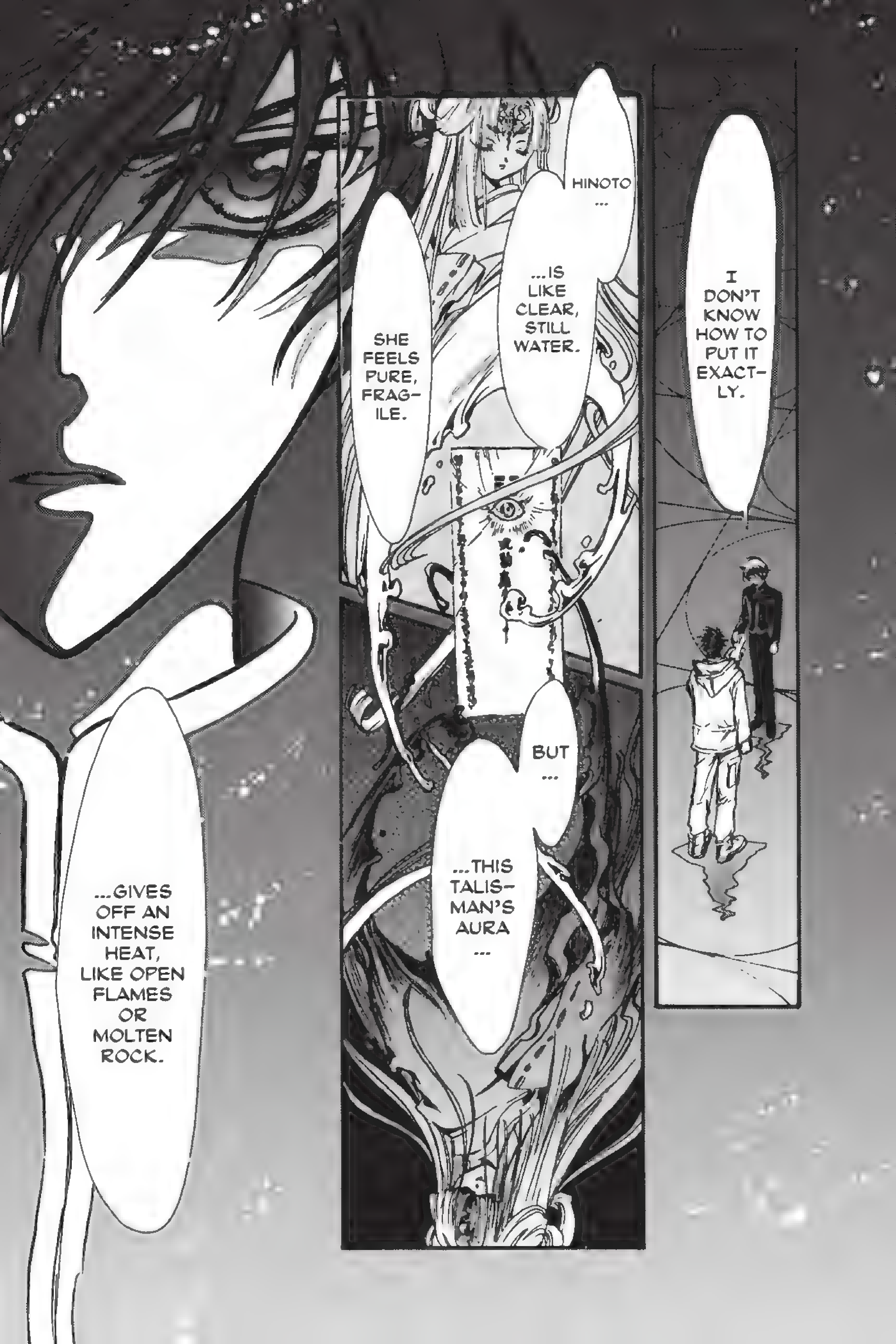

THIS WAS LEFT BEHIND FROM THE SPELL HINOTO USED JUST NOW.
SHF
I'VE SEEN ONE LIKE IT BEFORE.
IT WAS RIGHT WHEN I CAME BACK TO TOKYO.

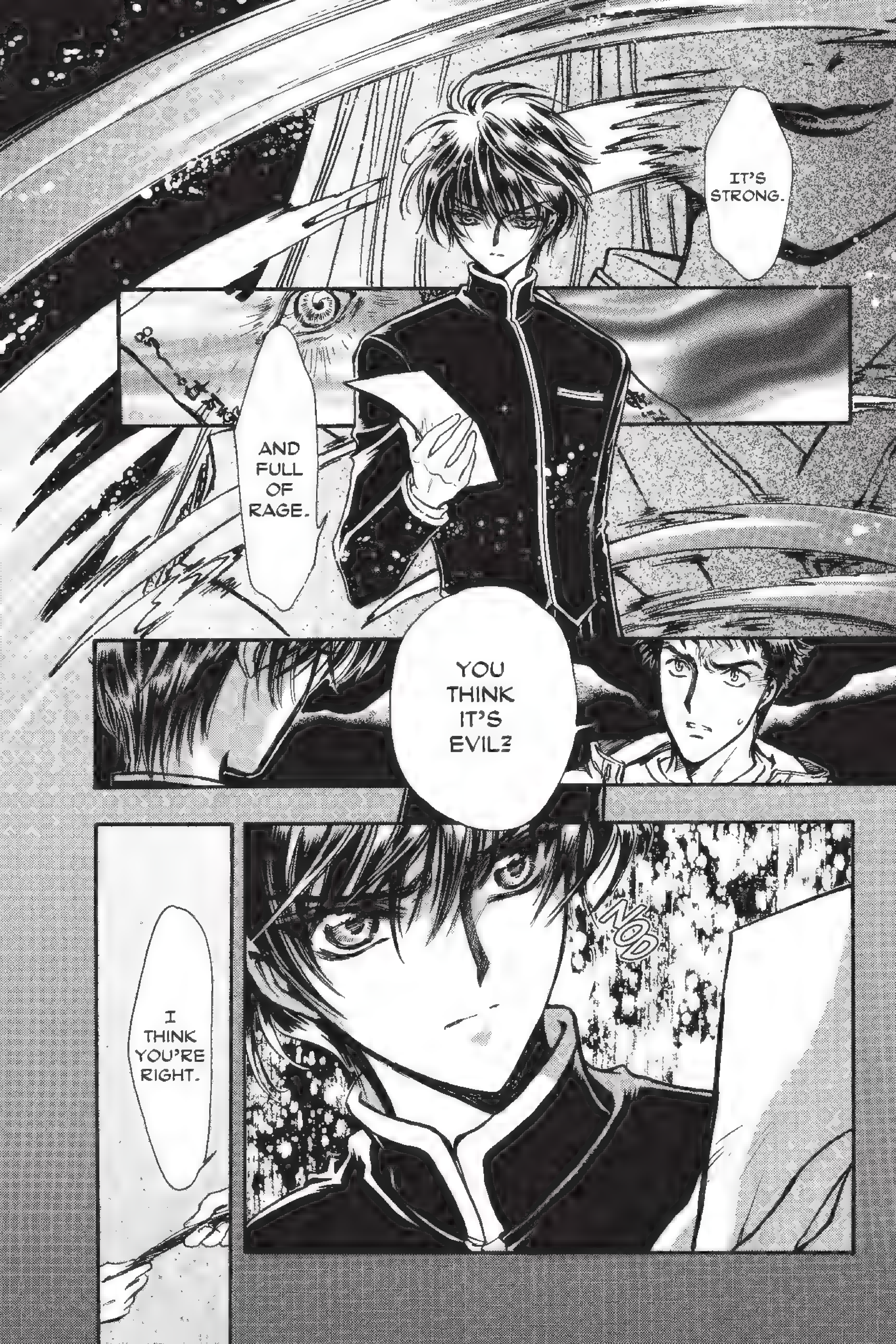

THAT MORNING, ON MY WAY TO KOTORI AND FUMA'S SCHOOL...
...I WAS ATTACKED.
BY WHAT LOOKED LIKE MEN IN BLACK SUITS AND SUNGLASSES.
THEY WERE SHIKI.

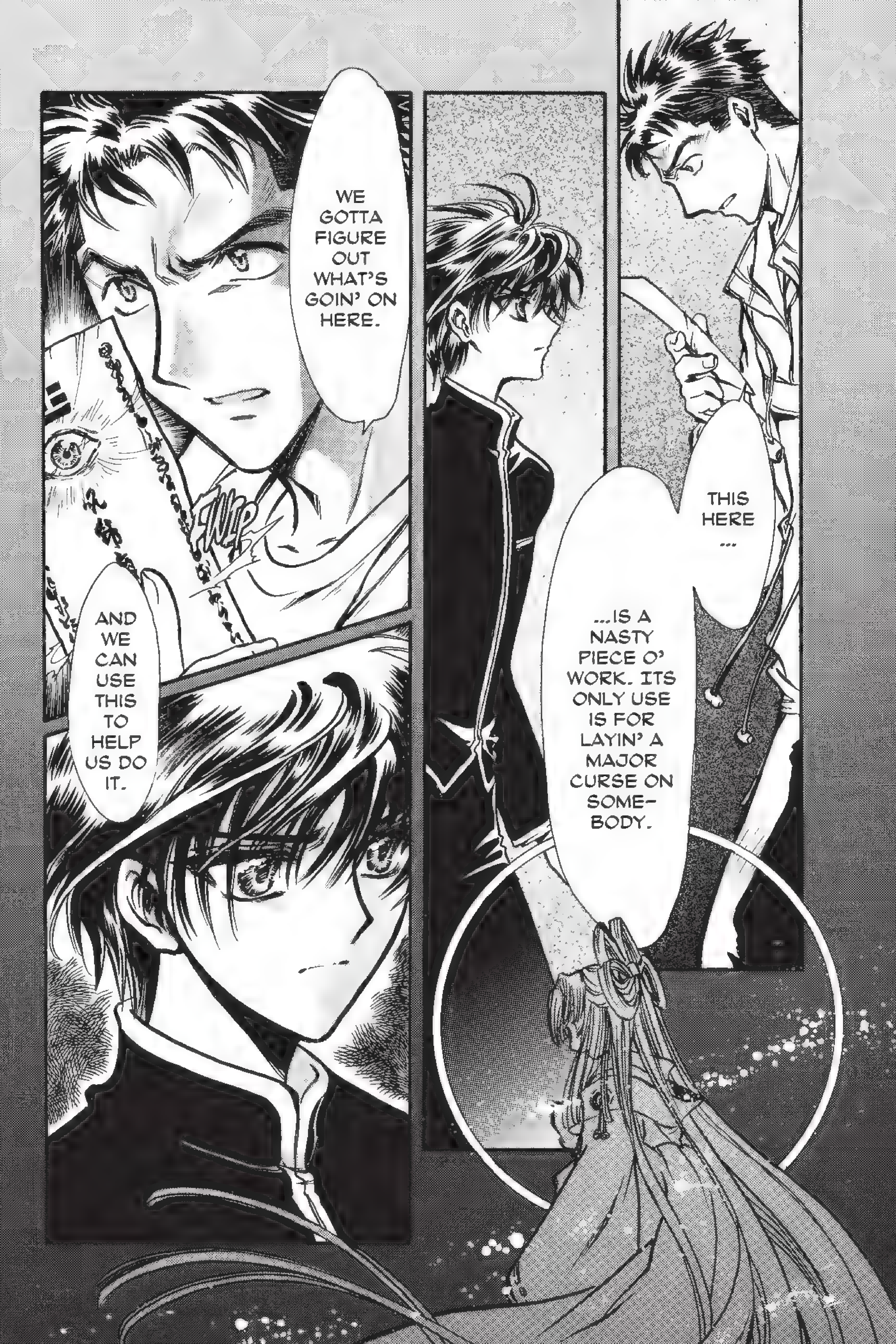

AND IT WAS CLEAR ...
...THAT THEY HAD BEEN SENT WITH ONE PURPOSE. TO KILL ME.

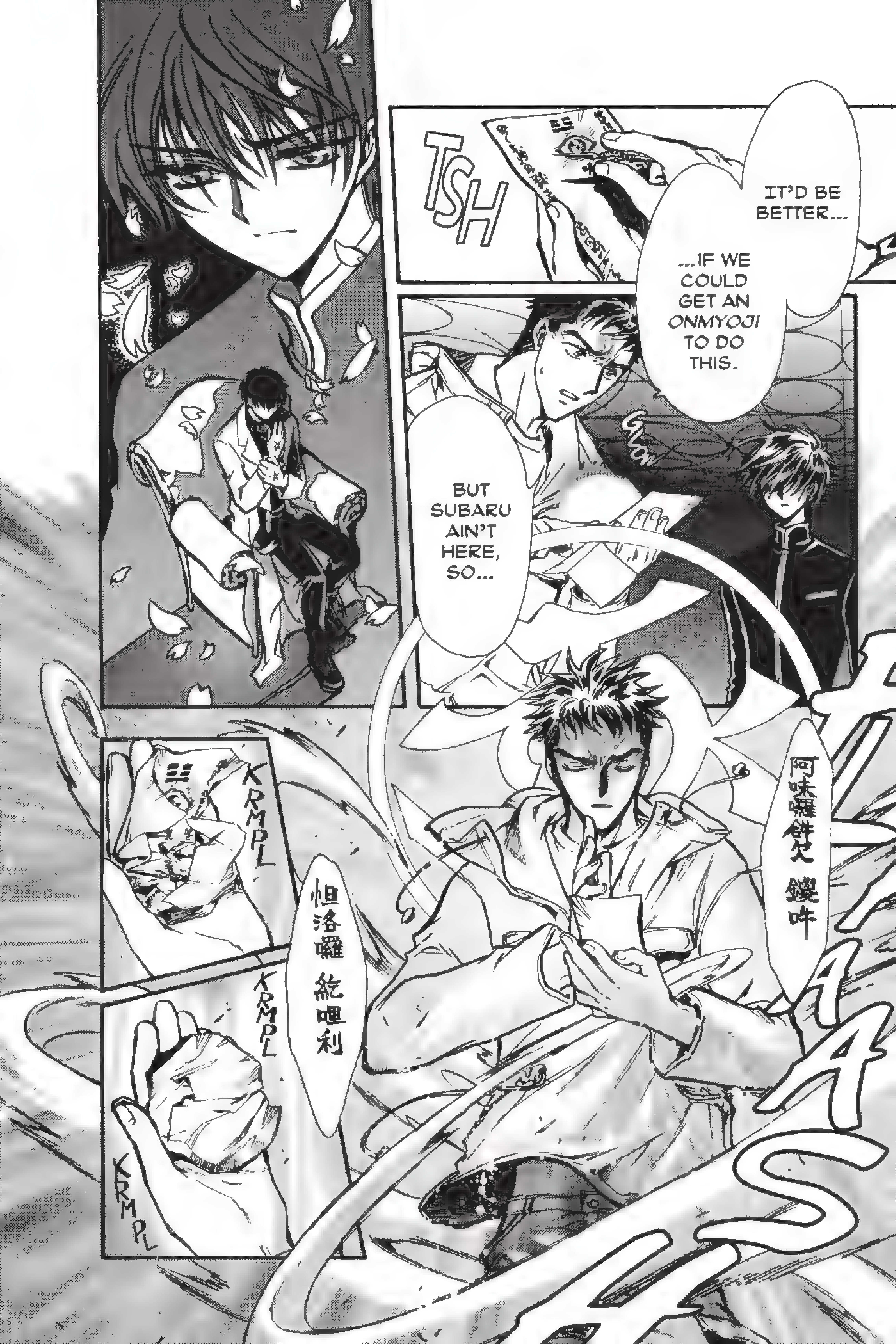

AFTER I DEFEATED THEM AND DESTROYED THEIR FORMS, THESE PAPER TALISMANS WERE ALL THAT REMAINED.

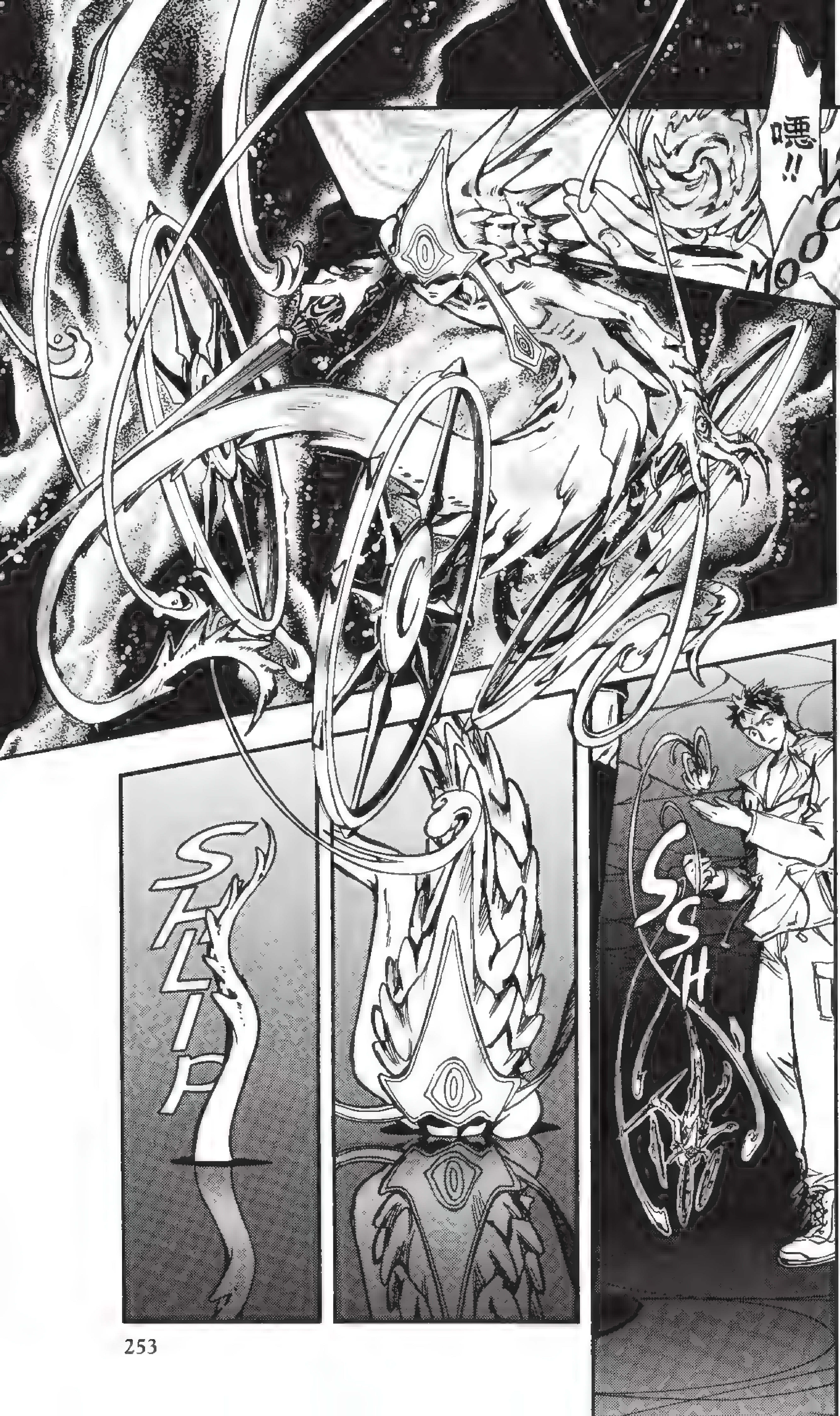

THIS ONE HAS THE EXACT SAME AURA.
THAT BIRD JUST NOW AND THOSE SHIKI WHO CAME AFTER ME BEFORE...
...WERE SENT BY THE SAME PERSON.
AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN...
...THAT MEANS THE PERSON WHO TRIED TO KILL ME THE DAY I RETURNED TO TOKYO WAS HINOTO.
BUT...
...WHAT'S EVEN STRANGER IS THAT THE AURA ON THESE TALISMANS FEELS NOTHING LIKE THE HINOTO WE KNOW. THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT.

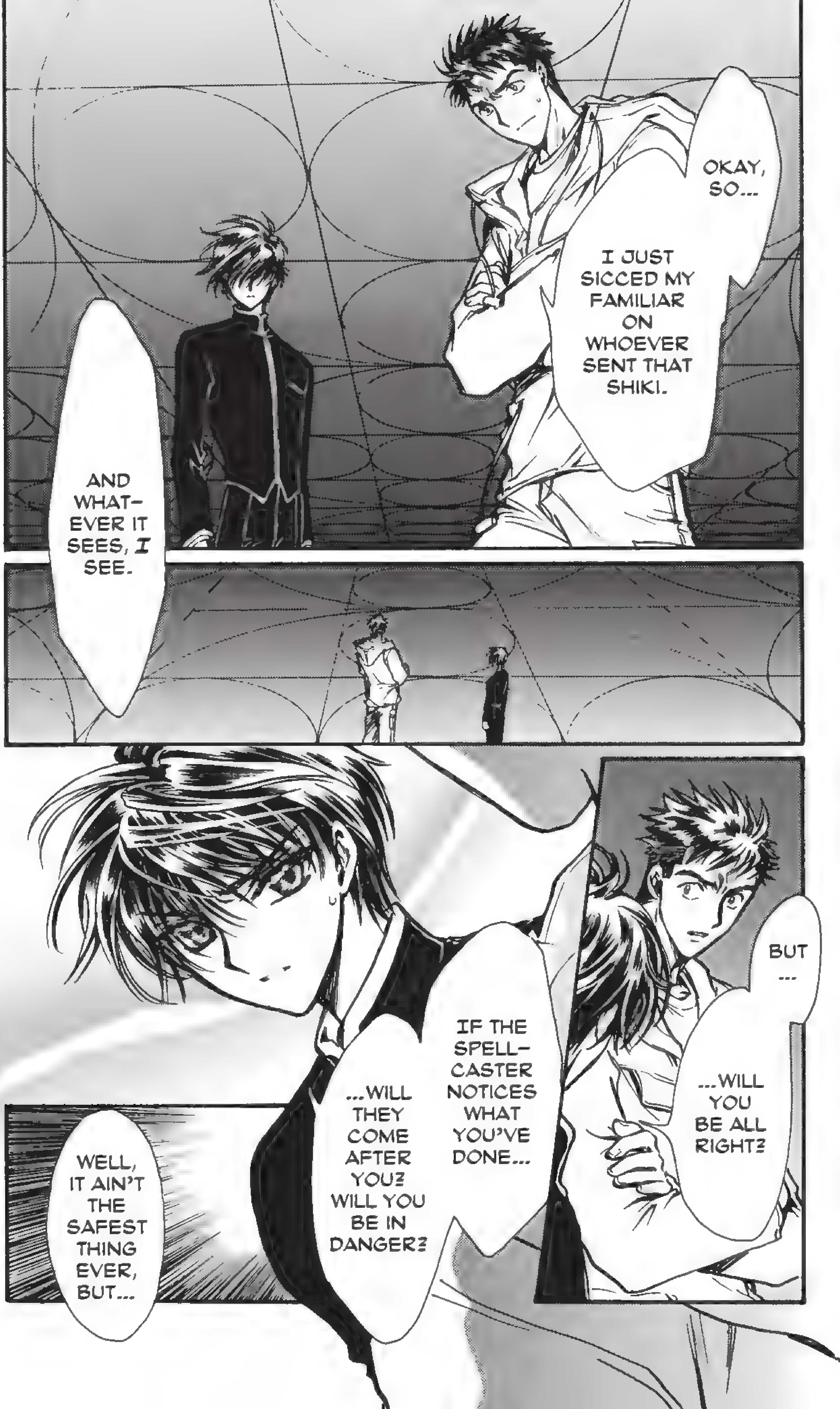

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT EXACTLY.
HINOTO...
...IS LIKE CLEAR, STILL WATER.
SHE FEELS PURE, FRAGILE.
BUT...
...THIS TALISMAN'S AURA...
...GIVES OFF AN INTENSE HEAT, LIKE OPEN FLAMES OR MOLTEN ROCK.

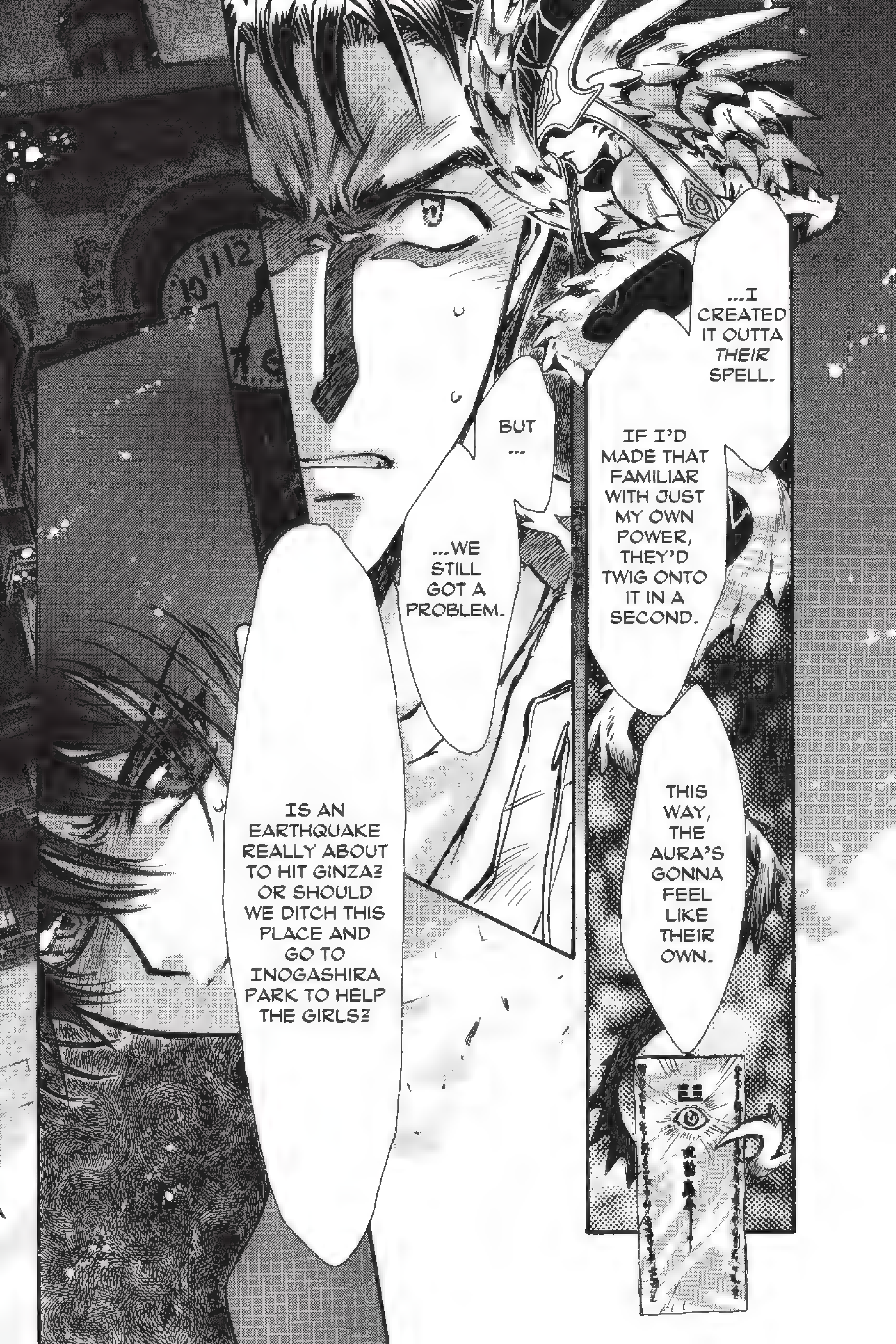

IT'S STRONG.
AND FULL OF RAGE.
YOU THINK IT'S EVIL?
NOD
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

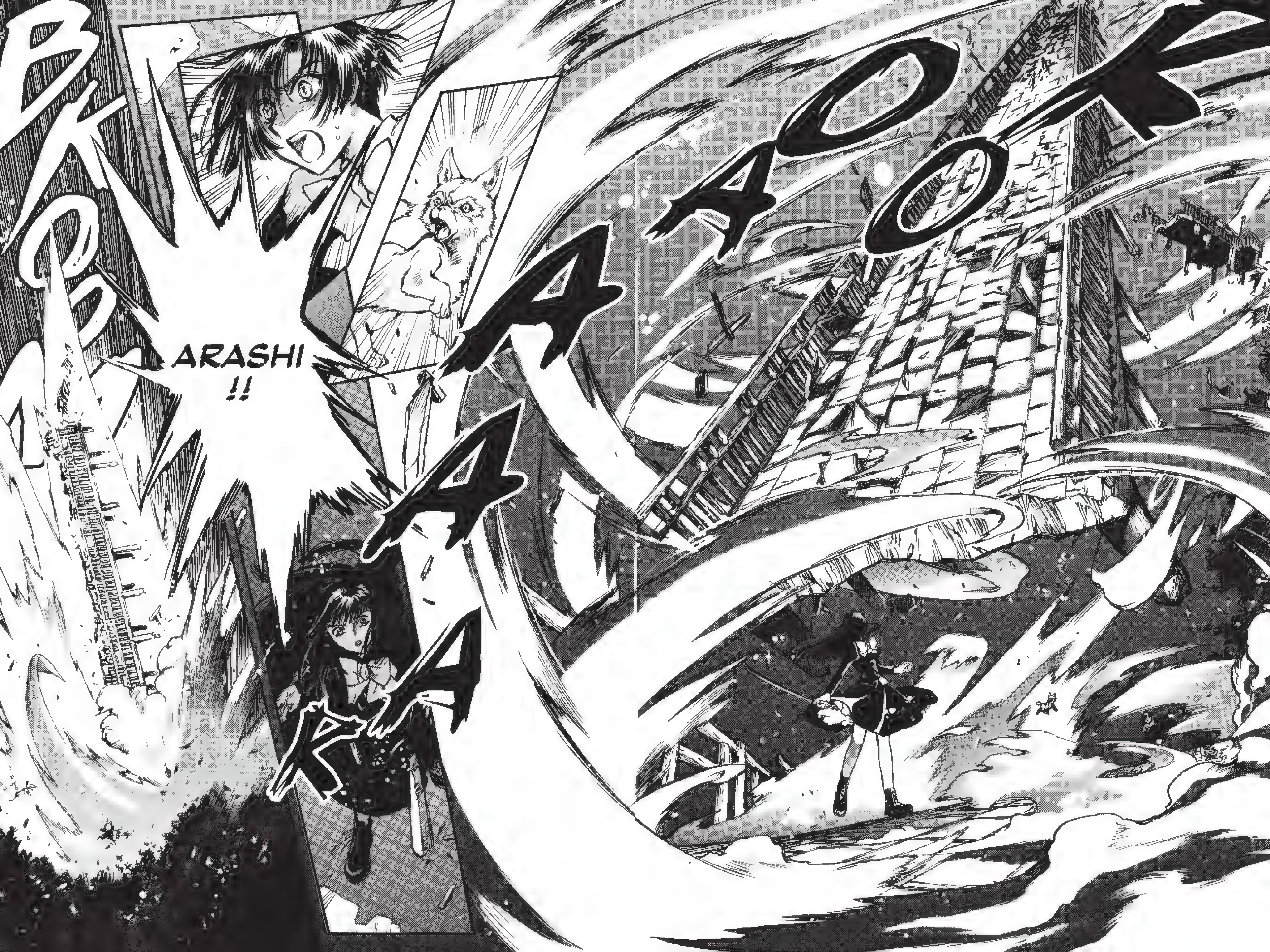

THIS HERE ...
...IS A NASTY PIECE O' WORK. ITS ONLY USE IS FOR LAYIN' A MAJOR CURSE ON SOMEBODY.
WE GOTTA FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE.
AND WE CAN USE THIS TO HELP US DO IT.

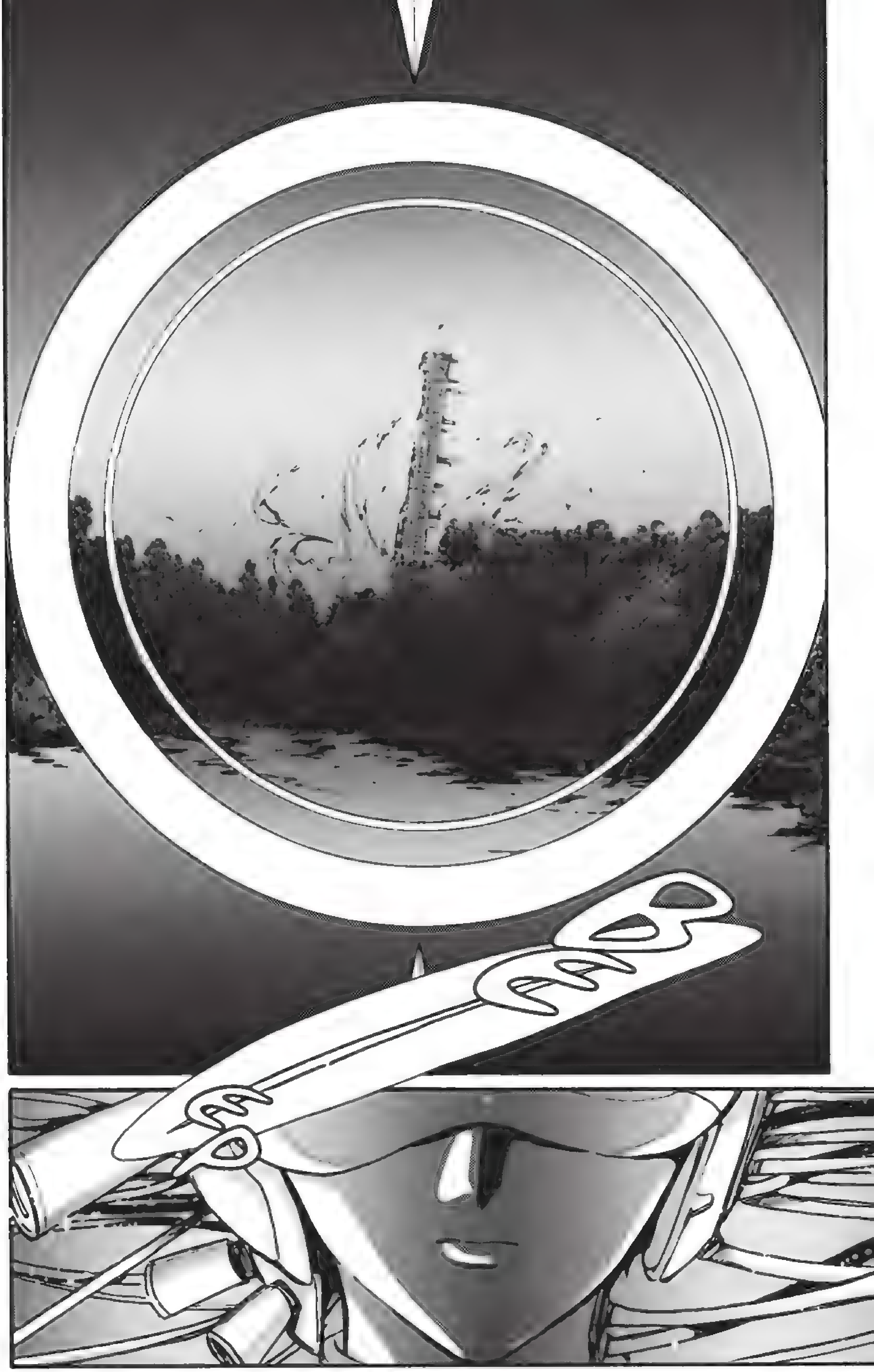

IT'D BE BETTER...
...IF WE COULD GET AN ONMYOJI TO DO THIS.
TSH
BUT SUBARU AIN'T HERE, SO...
GLOW
KRMPL
KRMPL
KRMPL
阿味囉餅欠 鑁吽
怛洛囉 紇哩利
AASH

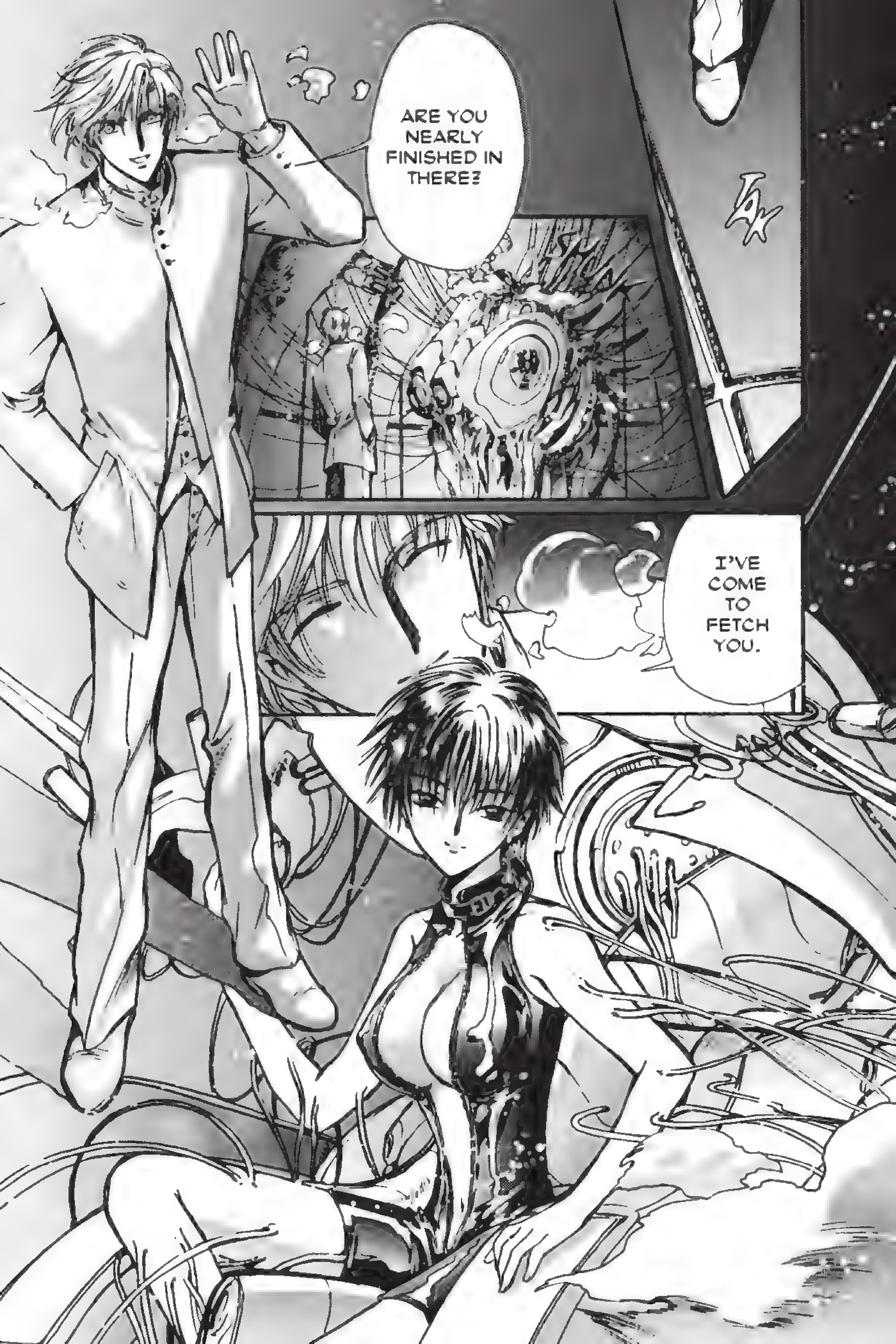

嘿!!
FWOOOMOO
SSH
SHLIFF

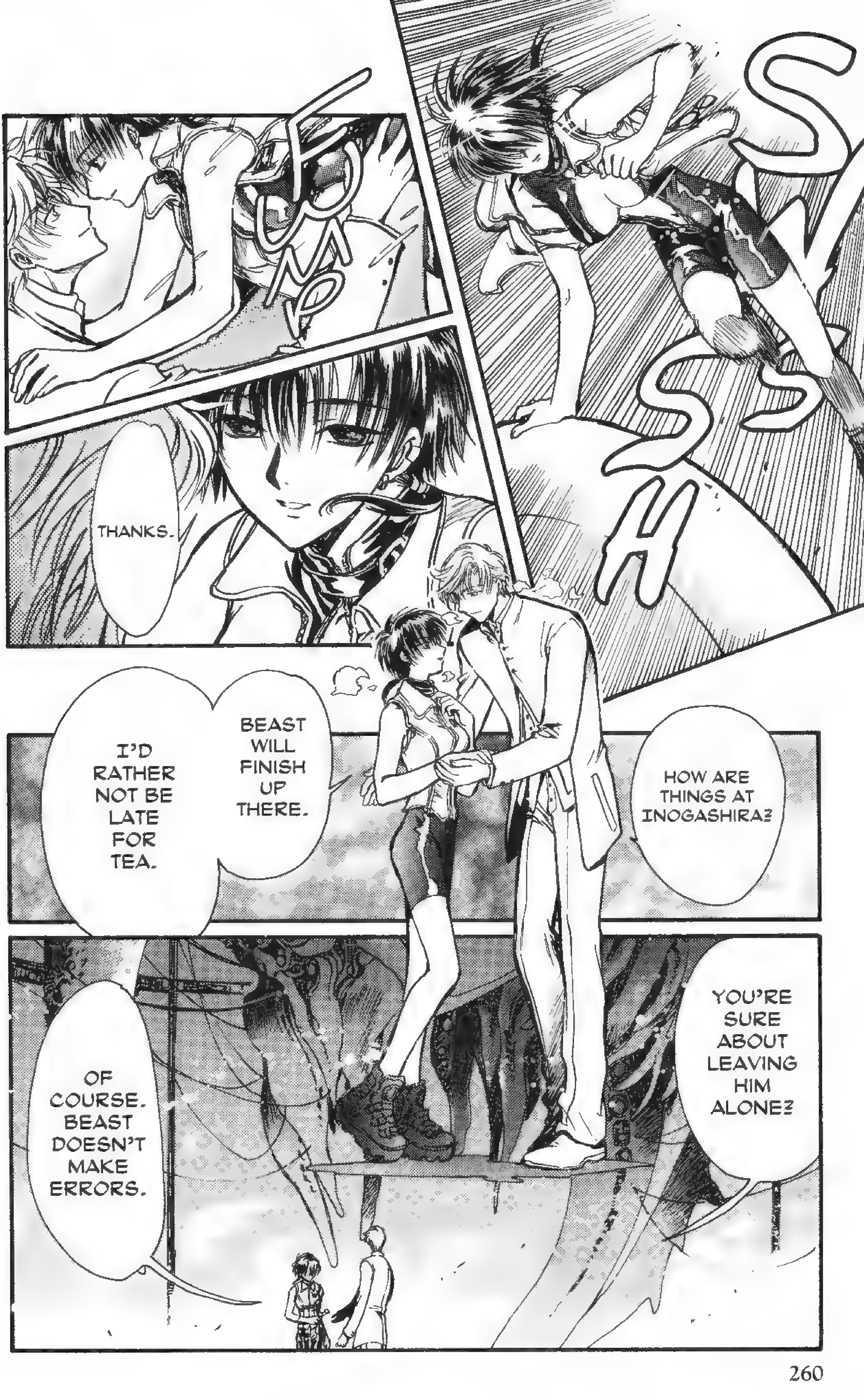

OKAY, SO...
I JUST SICCED MY FAMILIAR ON WHOEVER SENT THAT SHIKI.
AND WHATEVER IT SEES, *I* SEE.
BUT ...
...WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?
IF THE SPELL-CASTER NOTICES WHAT YOU'VE DONE...
...WILL THEY COME AFTER YOU? WILL YOU BE IN DANGER?
WELL, IT AIN'T THE SAFEST THING EVER, BUT...

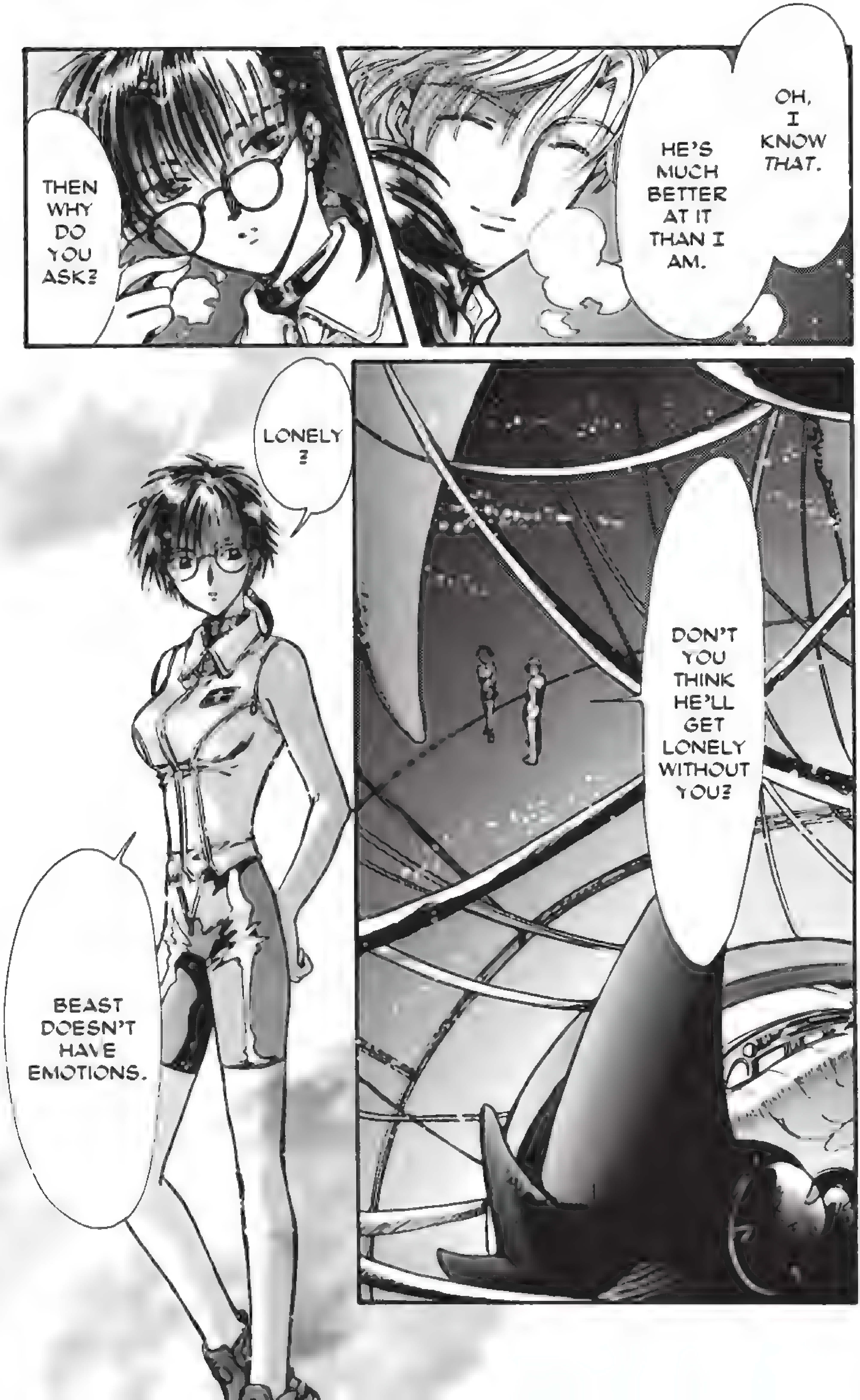

...I CREATED IT OUTTA *THEIR* SPELL.
IF I'D MADE THAT FAMILIAR WITH JUST MY OWN POWER, THEY'D TWIG ONTO IT IN A SECOND.
THIS WAY, THE AURA'S GONNA FEEL LIKE THEIR OWN.
BUT ...
...WE STILL GOT A PROBLEM.
IS AN EARTHQUAKE REALLY ABOUT TO HIT GINZA? OR SHOULD WE DITCH THIS PLACE AND GO TO INOGASHIRA PARK TO HELP THE GIRLS?
10 11 12

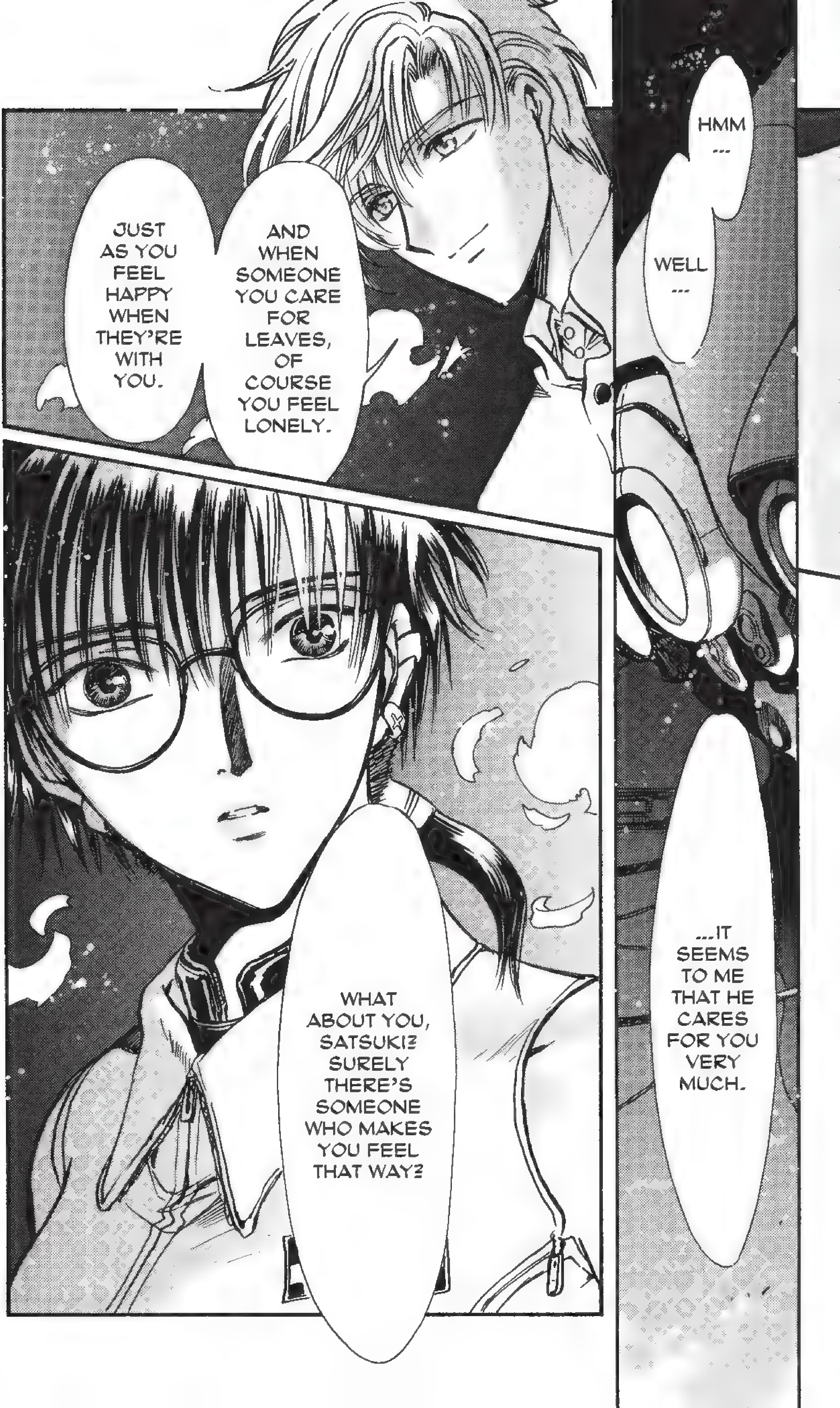

KRAAAAOOK
ARASHI !!
BKOOM

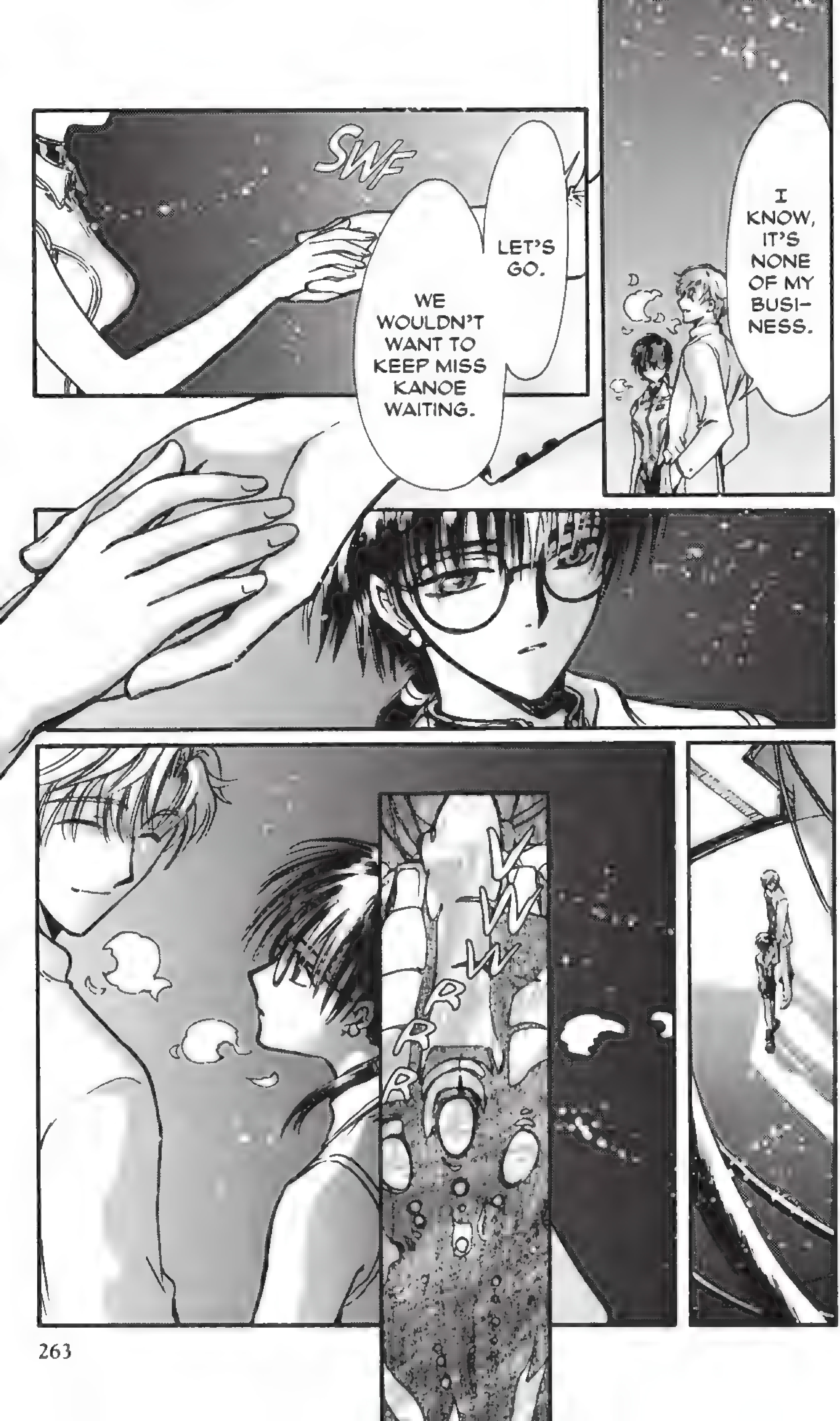


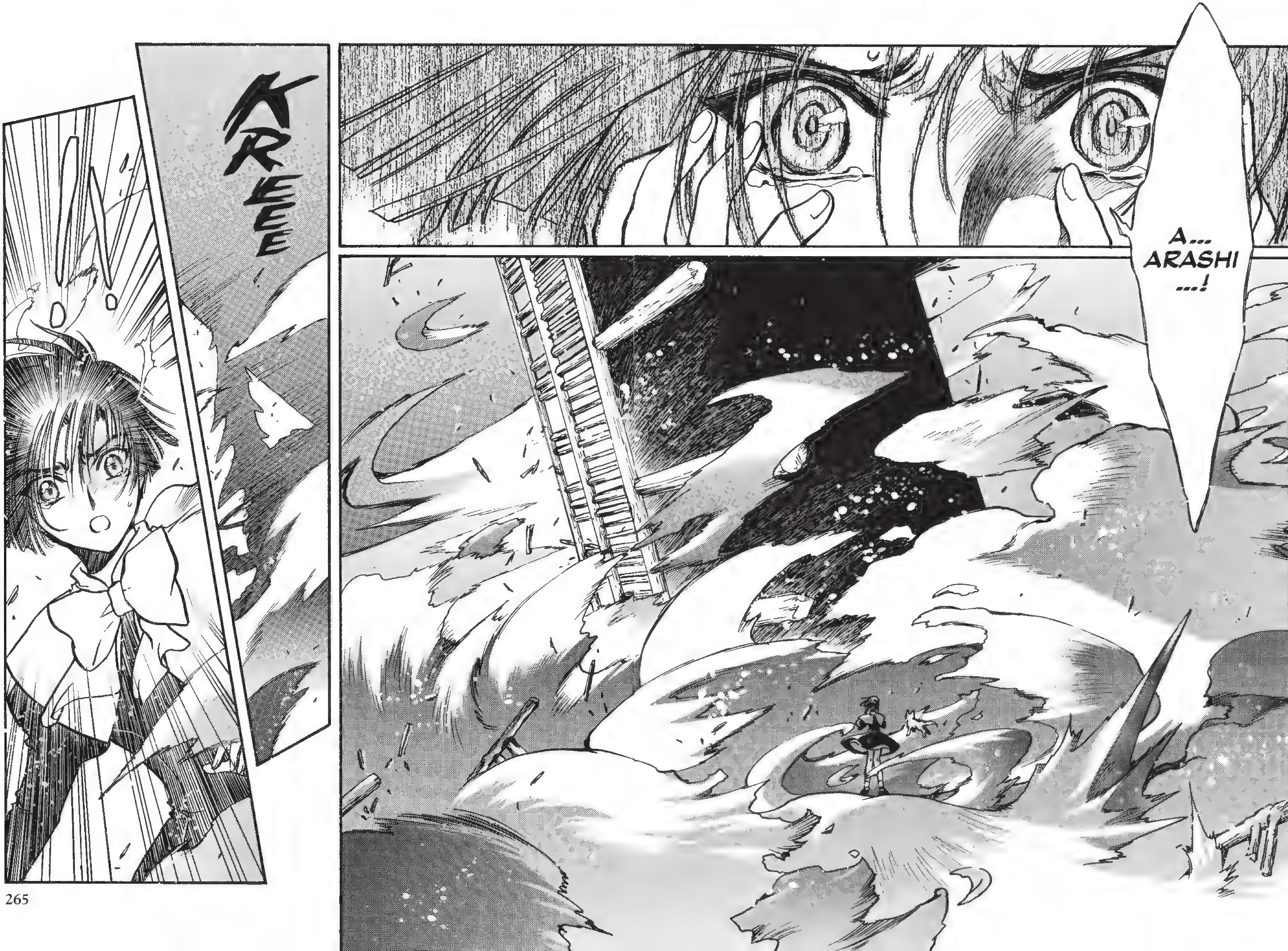

ARE YOU NEARLY FINISHED IN THERE?
I'VE COME TO FETCH YOU.


SWISSH
FUMP
THANKS.
HOW ARE THINGS AT INOGASHIRA?
BEAST WILL FINISH UP THERE.
I'D RATHER NOT BE LATE FOR TEA.
YOU'RE SURE ABOUT LEAVING HIM ALONE?
OF COURSE. BEAST DOESN'T MAKE ERRORS.

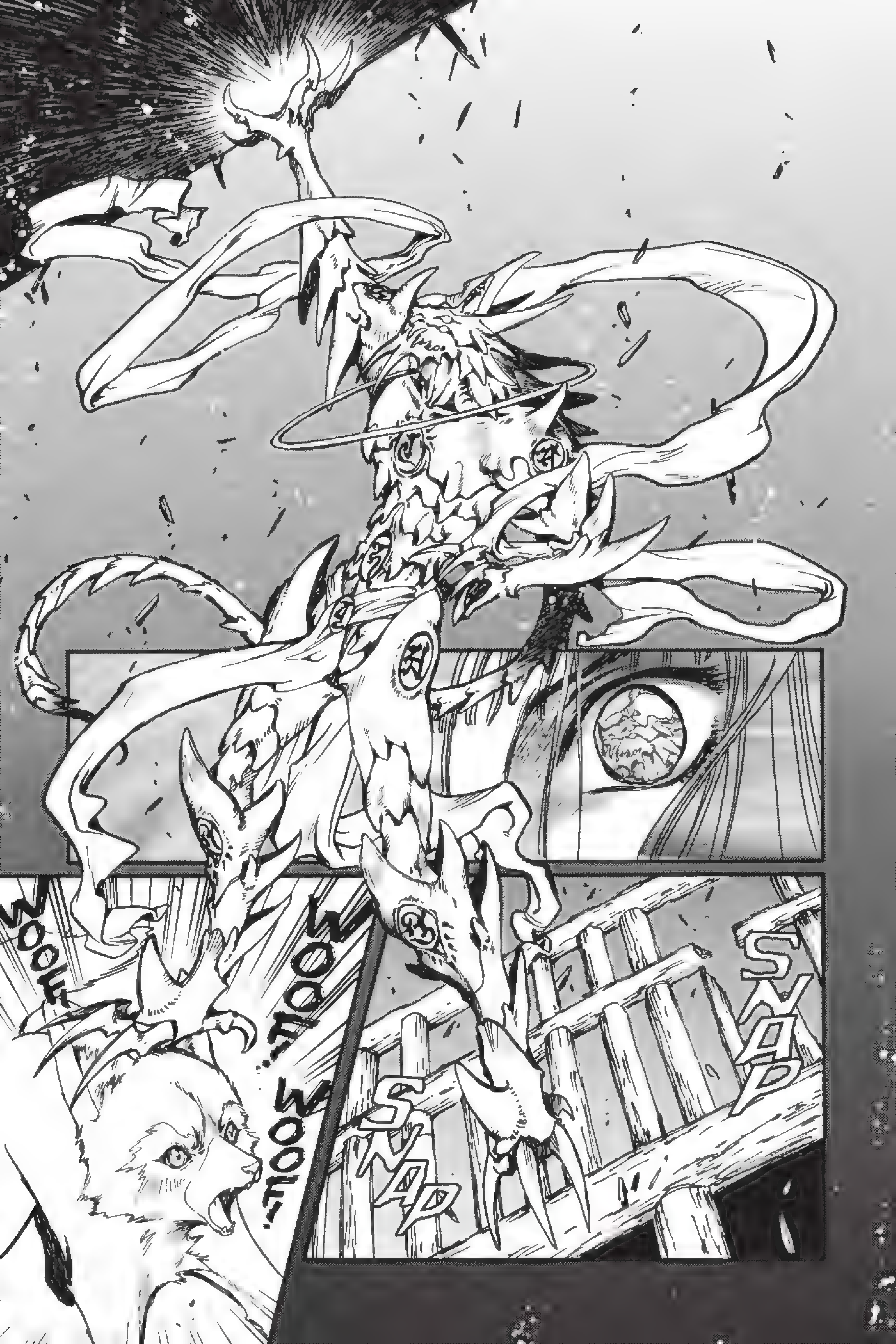

OH, I KNOW *THAT.*
HE'S MUCH BETTER AT IT THAN I AM.
THEN WHY DO YOU ASK?
DON'T YOU THINK HE'LL GET LONELY WITHOUT YOU?
LONELY?
BEAST DOESN'T HAVE EMOTIONS.

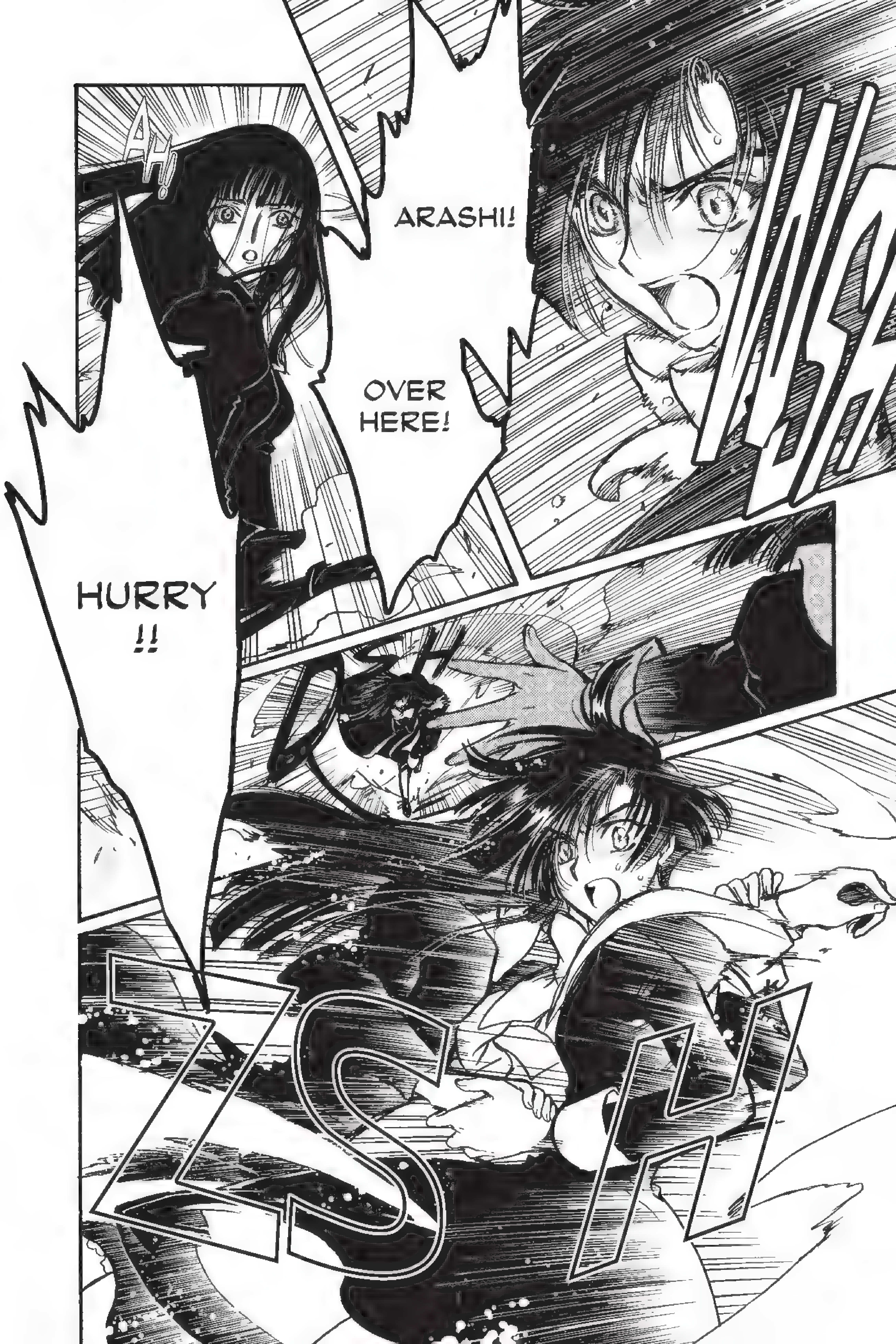

HMM...
WELL...
...IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HE CARES FOR YOU VERY MUCH.
JUST AS YOU FEEL HAPPY WHEN THEY'RE WITH YOU.
AND WHEN SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR LEAVES, OF COURSE YOU FEEL LONELY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SATSUKI? SURELY THERE'S SOMEONE WHO MAKES YOU FEEL THAT WAY?

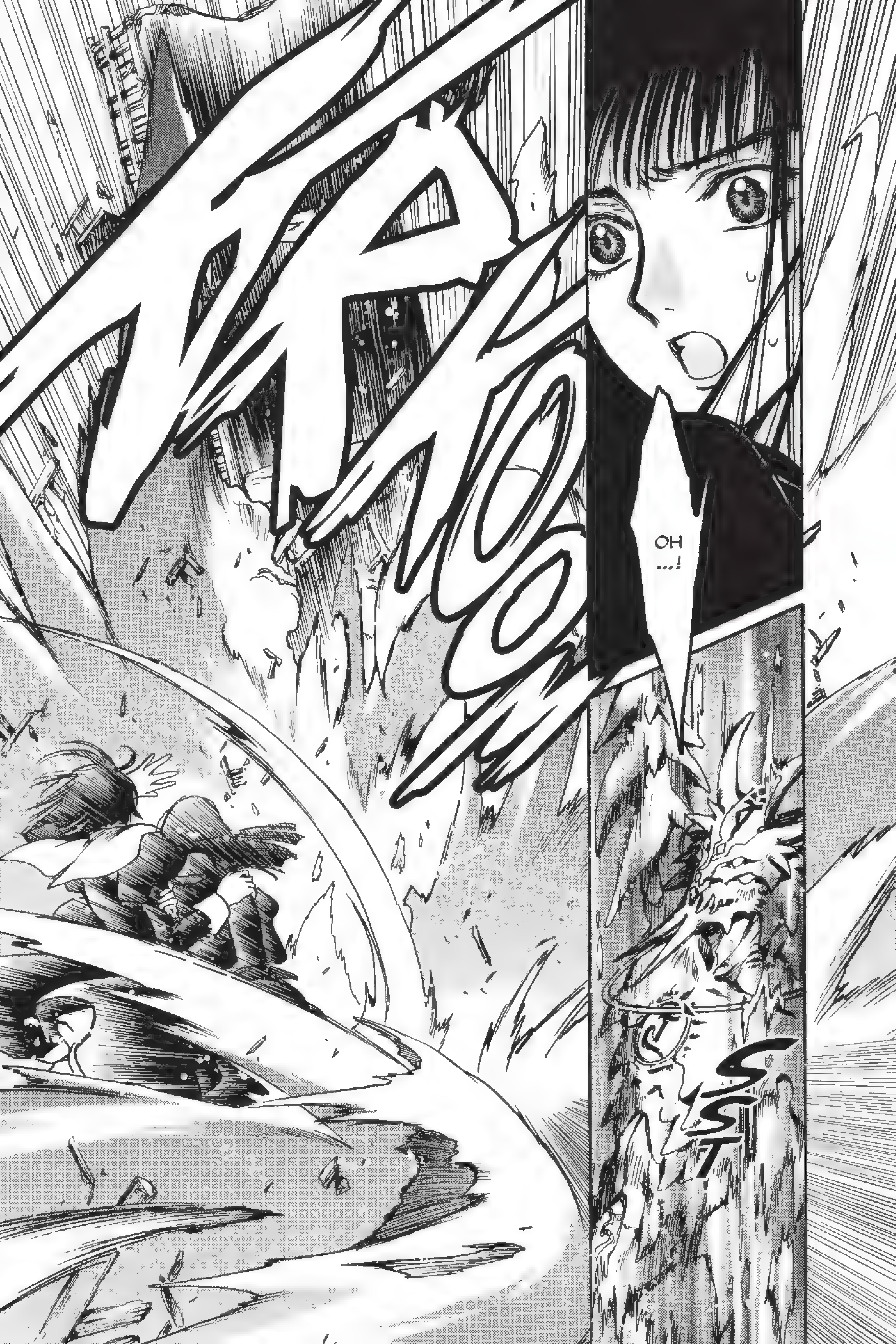

I KNOW, IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
SWF
LET'S GO.
WE WOULDN'T WANT TO KEEP MISS KANOE WAITING.
VVWWWRRR

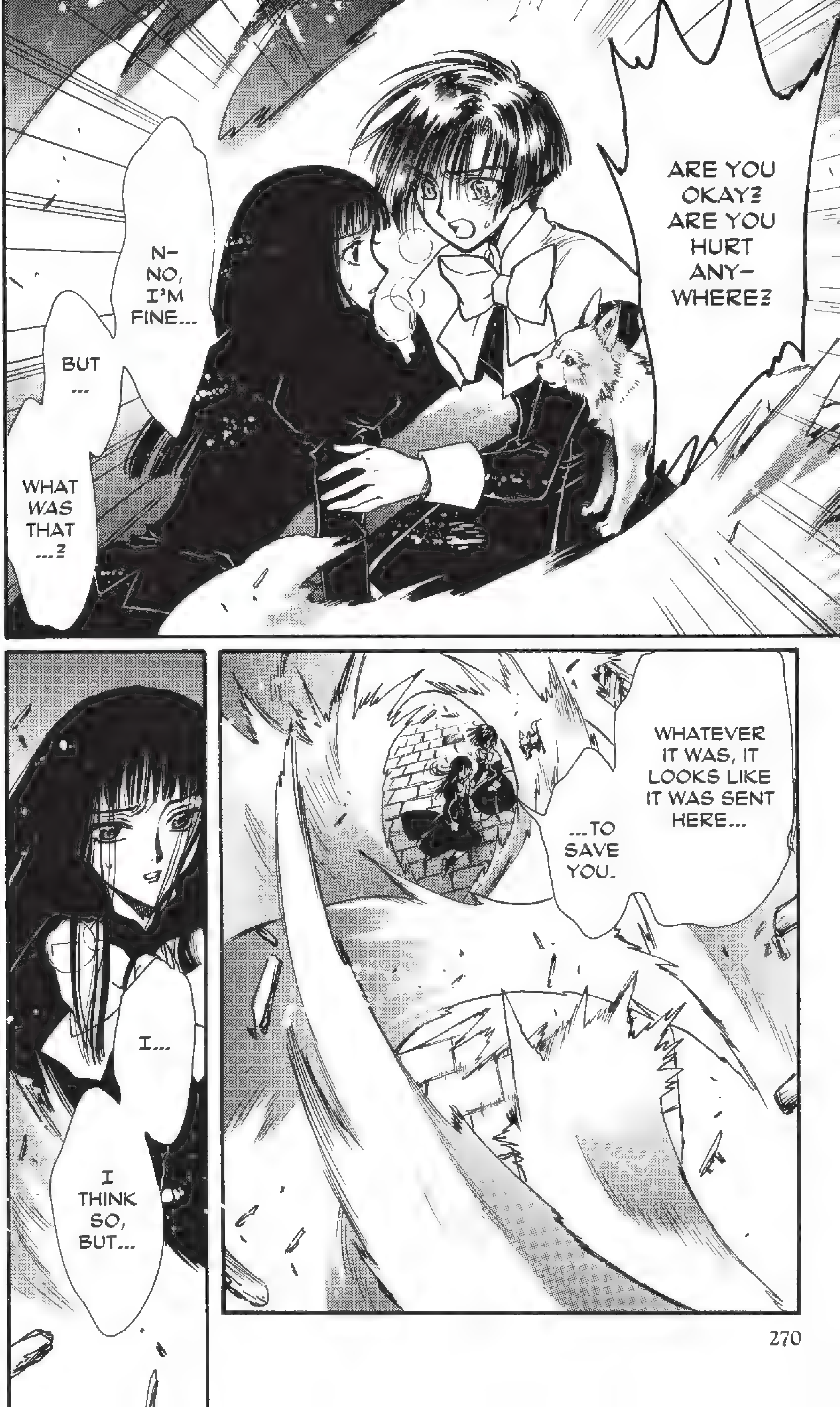

A... ARASHI ...!
KREEE
!!

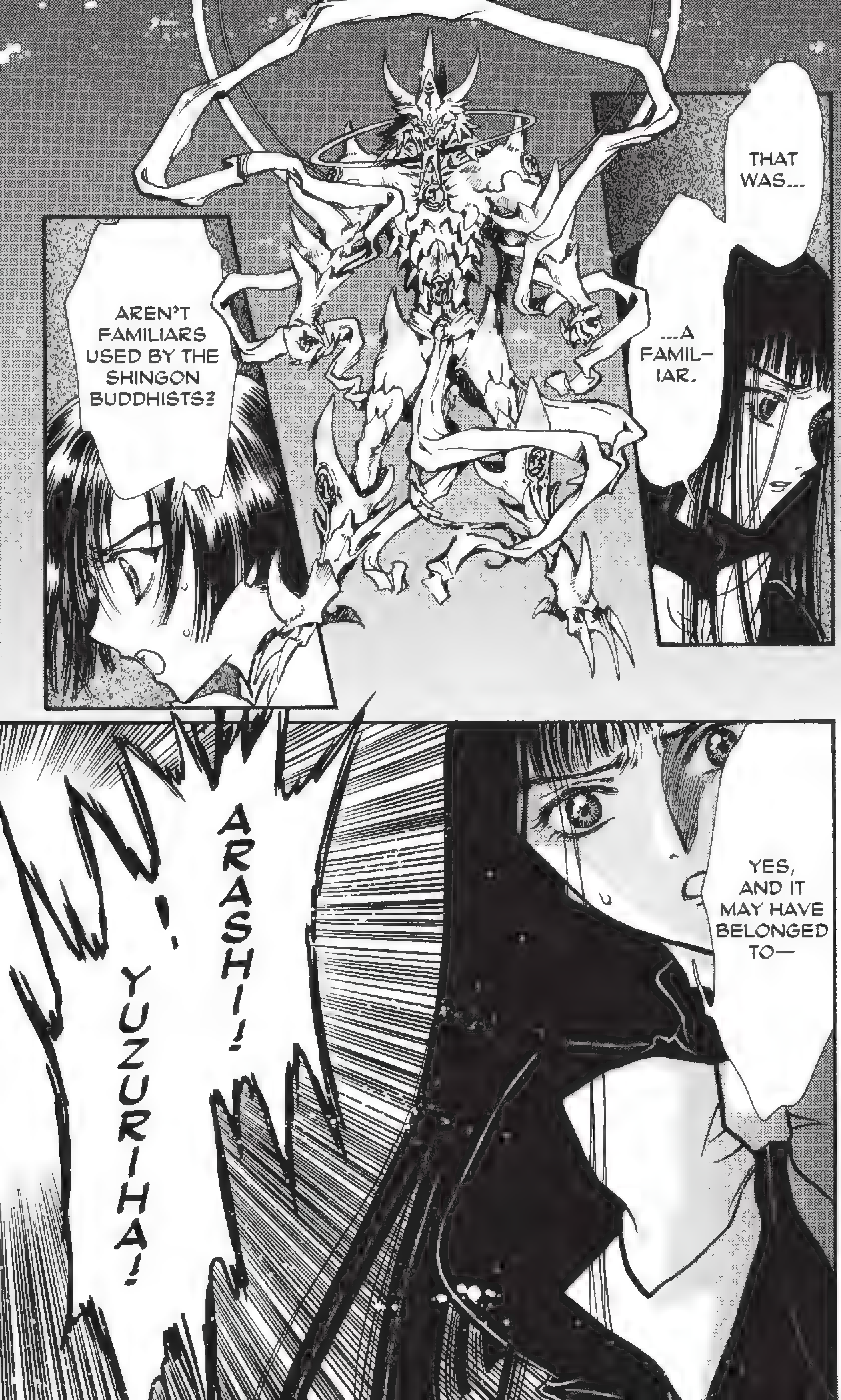
RM
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB

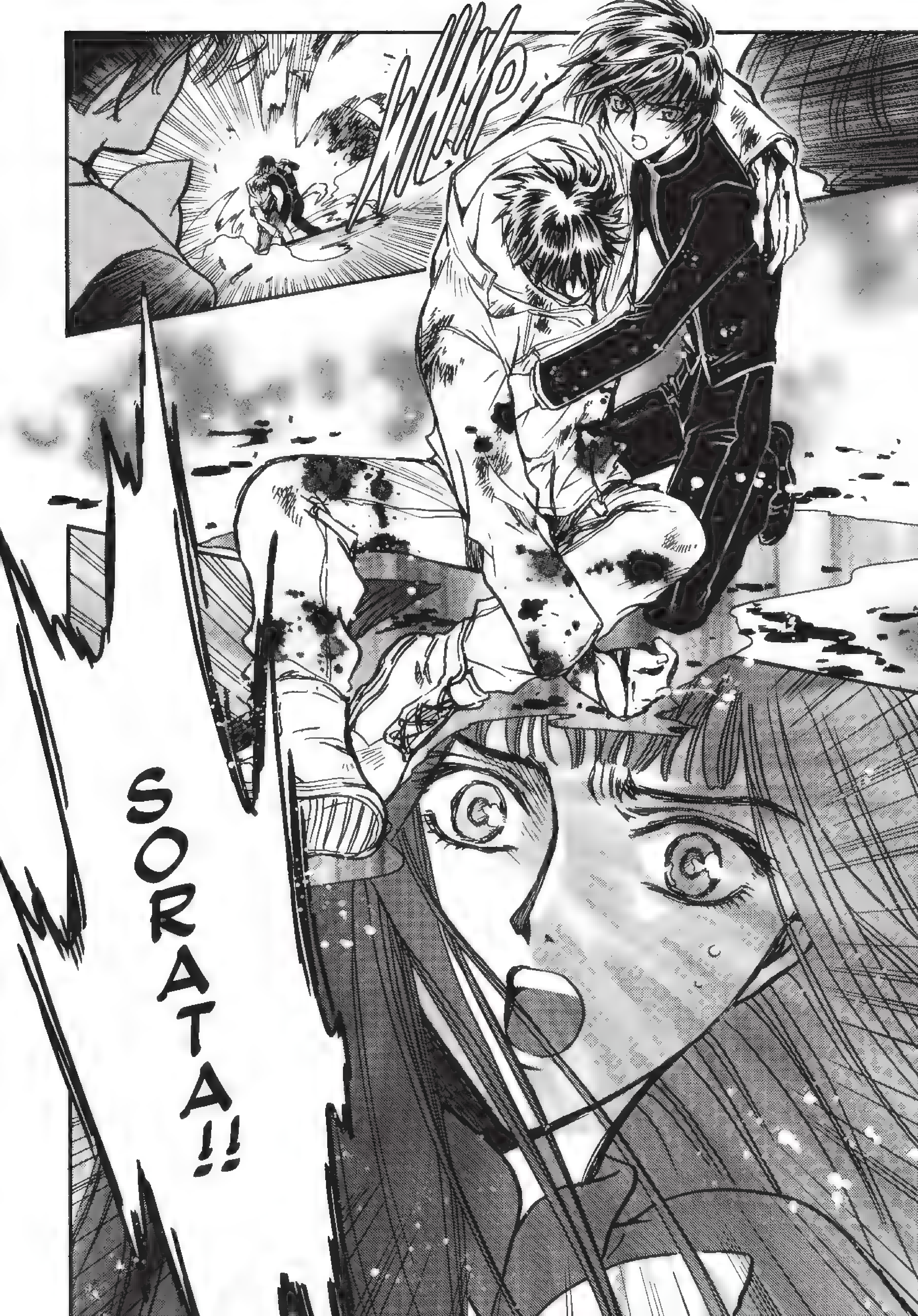

SNAP
SNAP
WOOF! WOOF!
WOOF

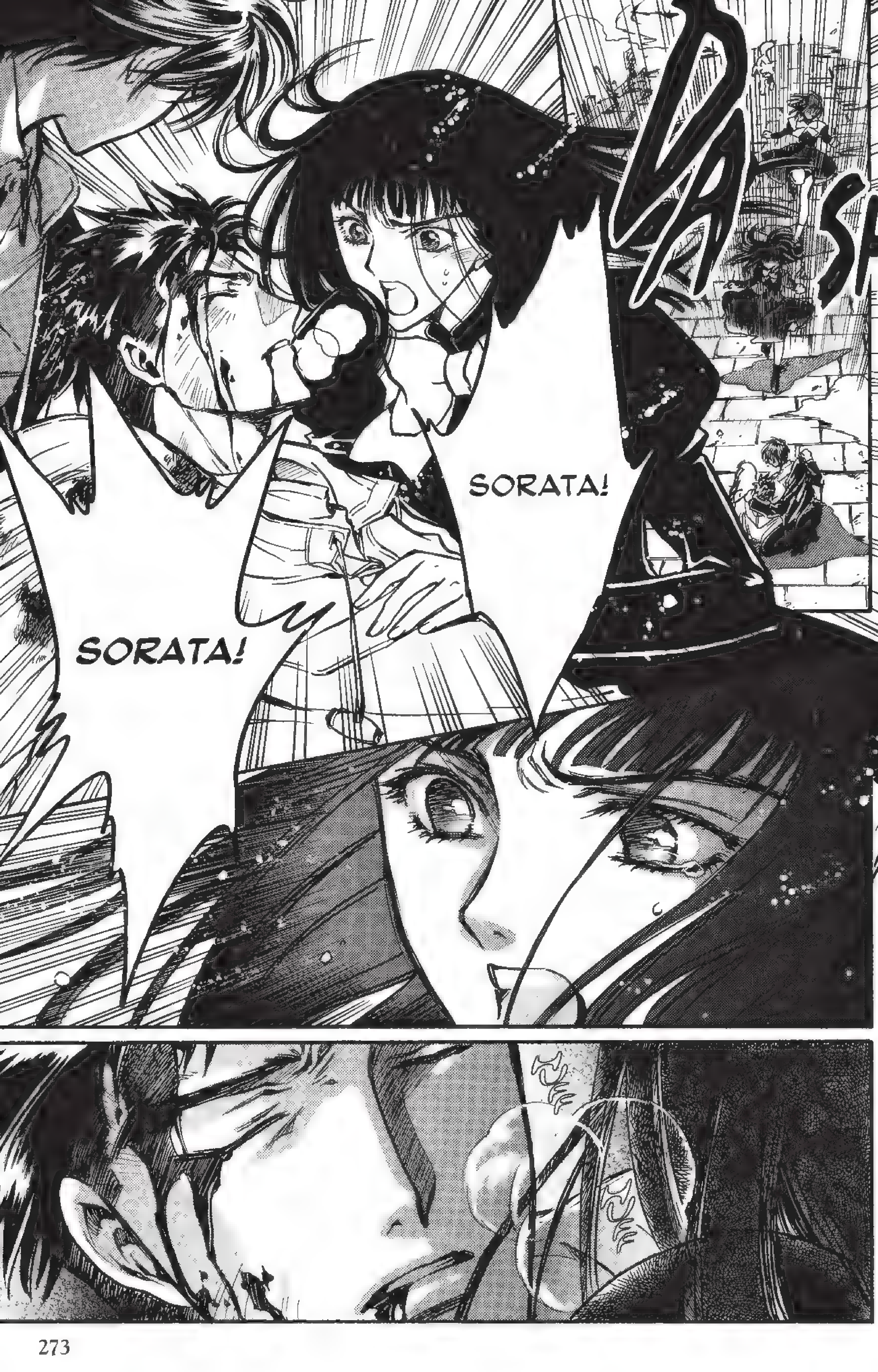

ARASHI!
OVER HERE!
AH!
HURRY !!
ZSH

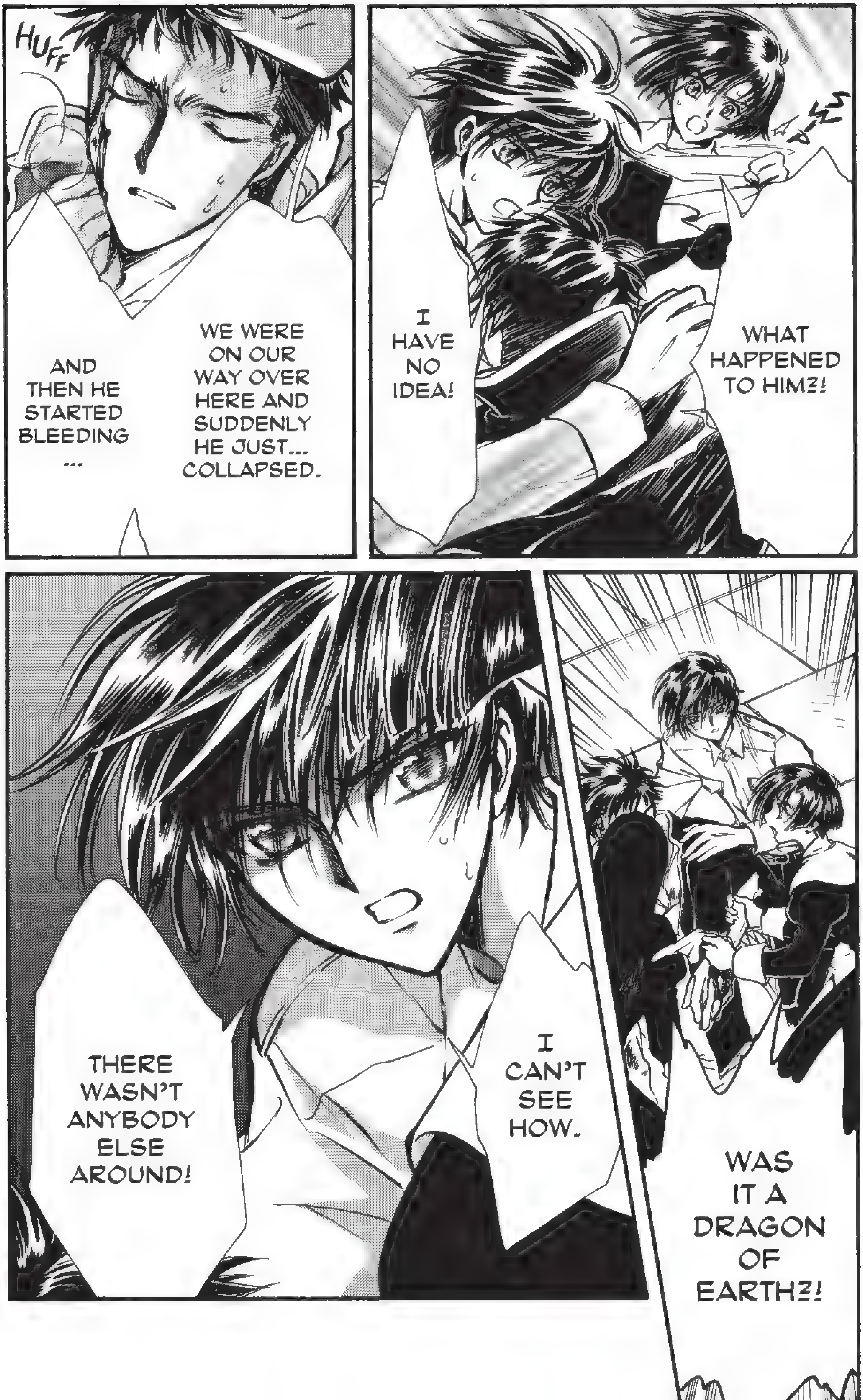

OH ...!
SST

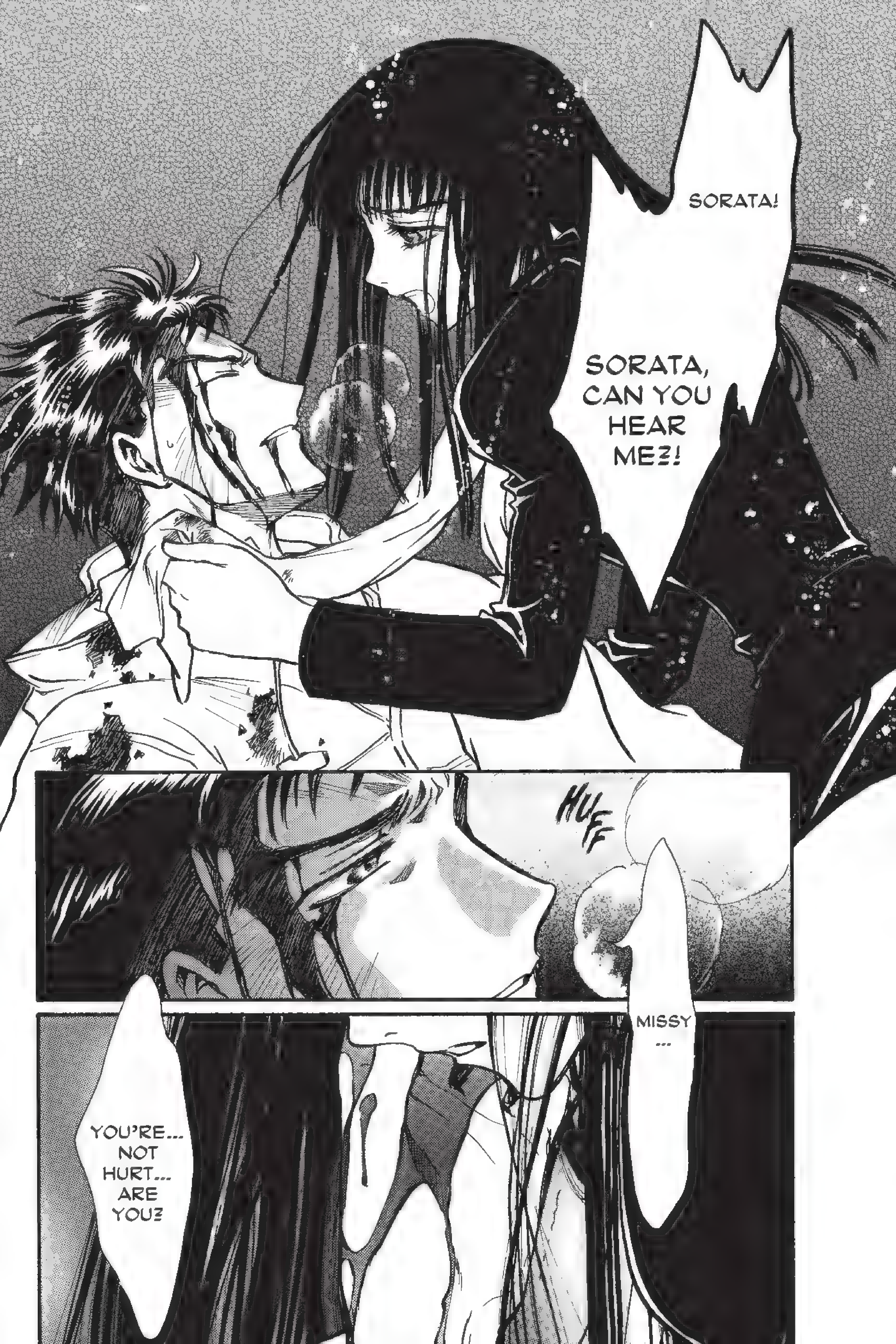

ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOU HURT ANYWHERE?
N-NO, I'M FINE...
BUT ...
WHAT *WAS* THAT ...?
WHATEVER IT WAS, IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS SENT HERE...
...TO SAVE YOU.
I...
I THINK SO, BUT...

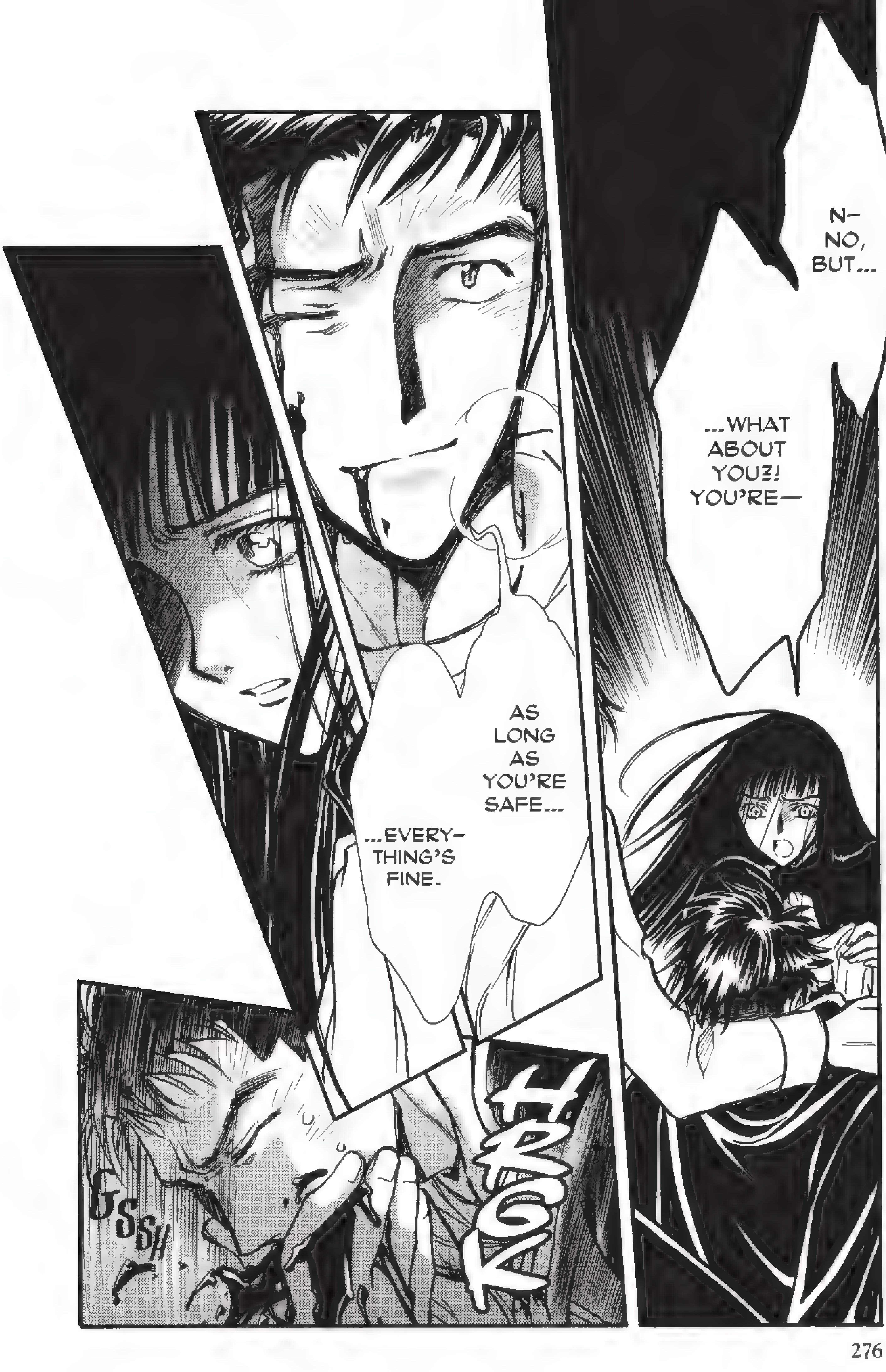

THAT WAS...
...A FAMILIAR.
AREN'T FAMILIARS USED BY THE SHINGON BUDDHISTS?
YES, AND IT MAY HAVE BELONGED TO—
ARASHI!!
YUZURIHA!

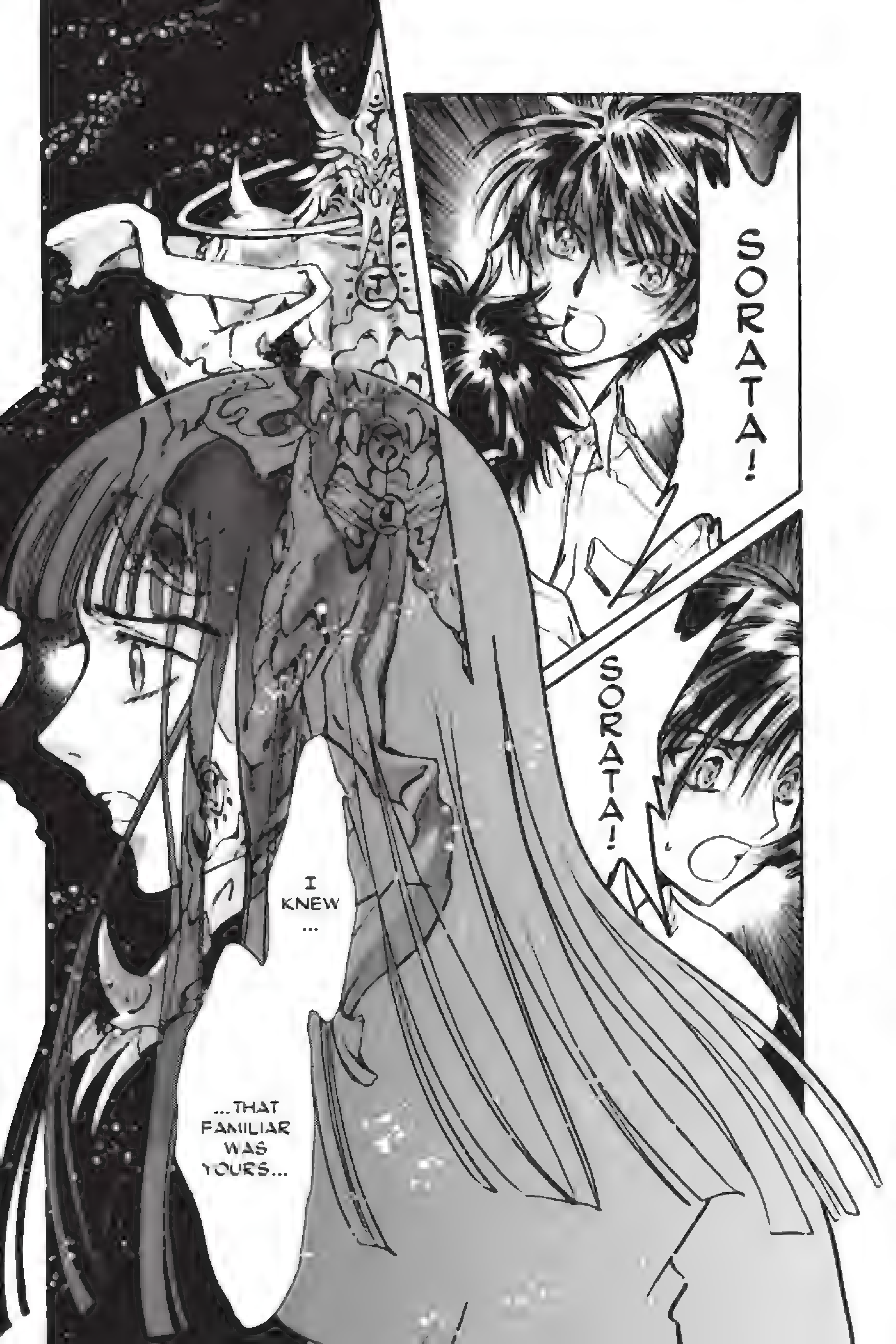

WHUMP
SORATA!!

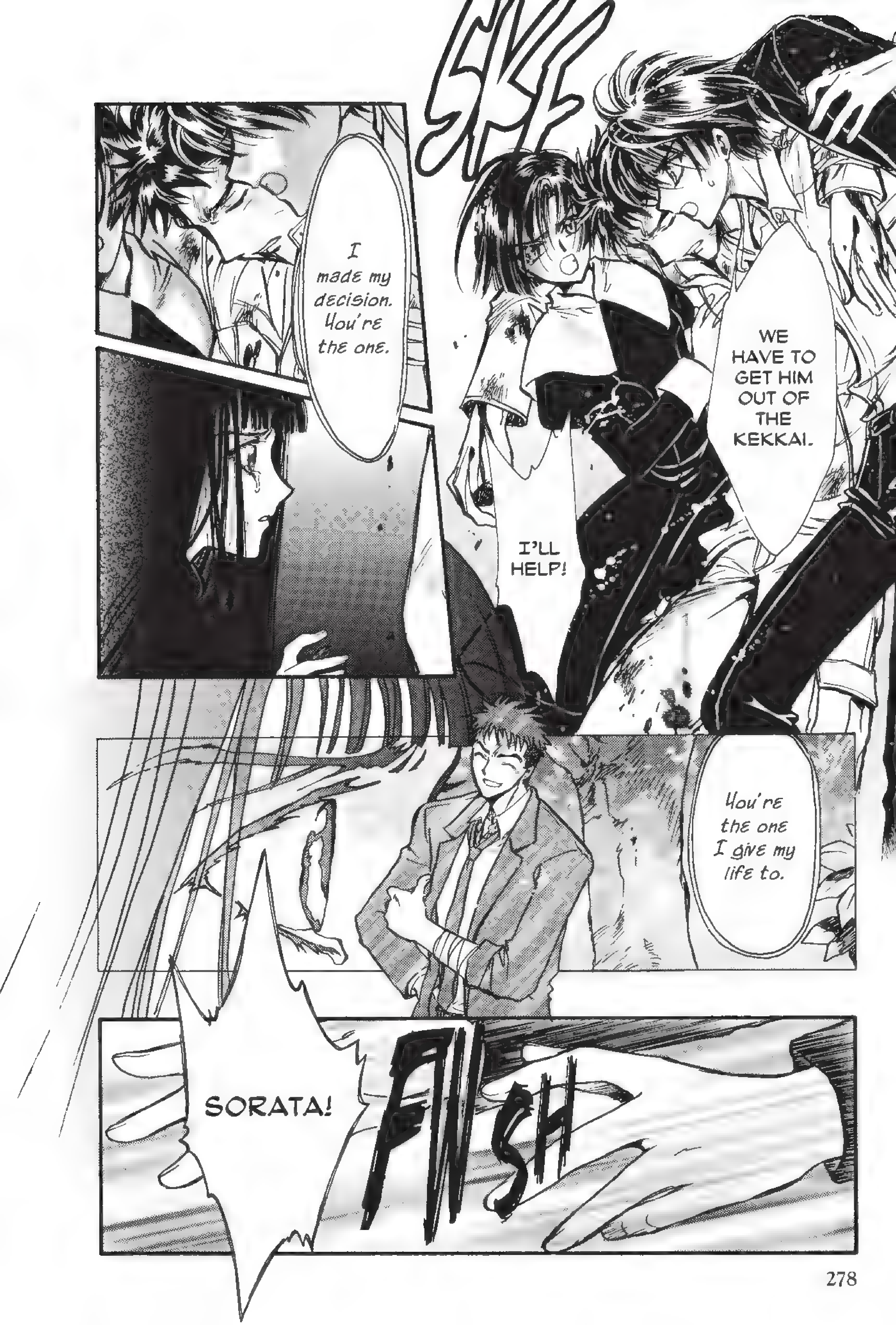

CRASH
SORATA!
SORATA!

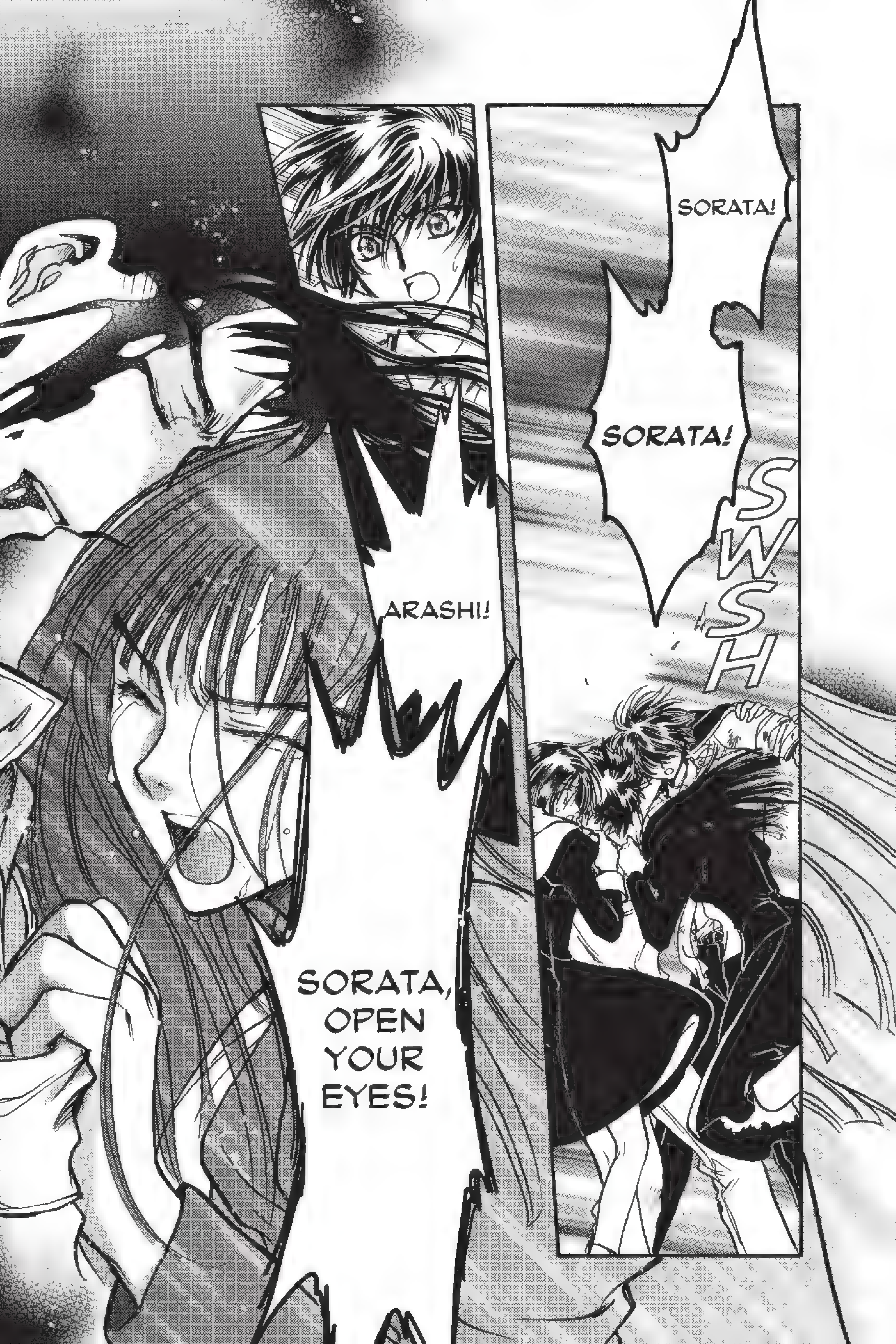

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?!
SWIP
I HAVE NO IDEA!
HUFF
WE WERE ON OUR WAY OVER HERE AND SUDDENLY HE JUST... COLLAPSED.
AND THEN HE STARTED BLEEDING...
WAS IT A DRAGON OF EARTH?!
I CAN'T SEE HOW.
THERE WASN'T ANYBODY ELSE AROUND!

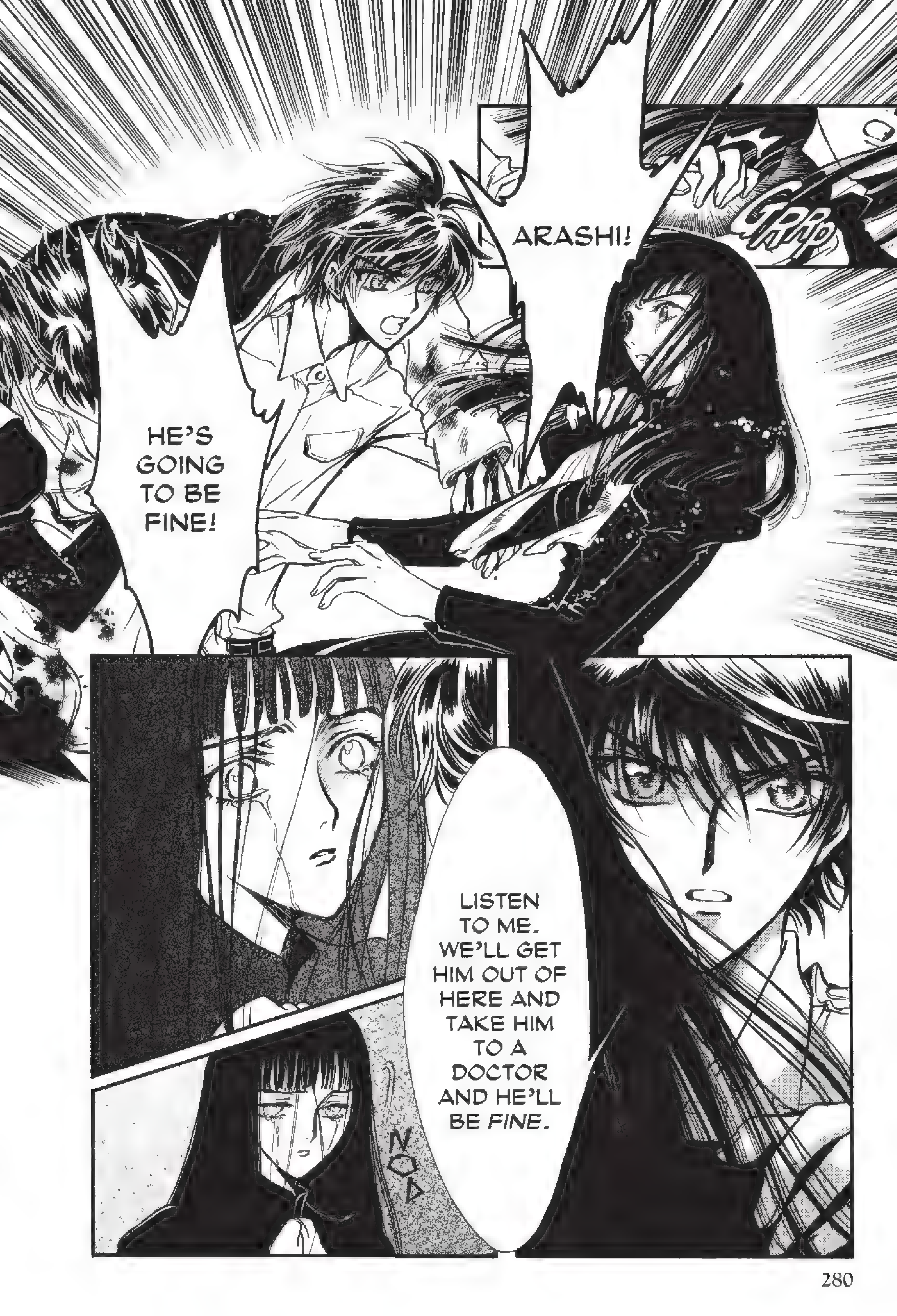

SORATA!
SORATA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
HUFF
MISSY ...
YOU'RE... NOT HURT... ARE YOU?

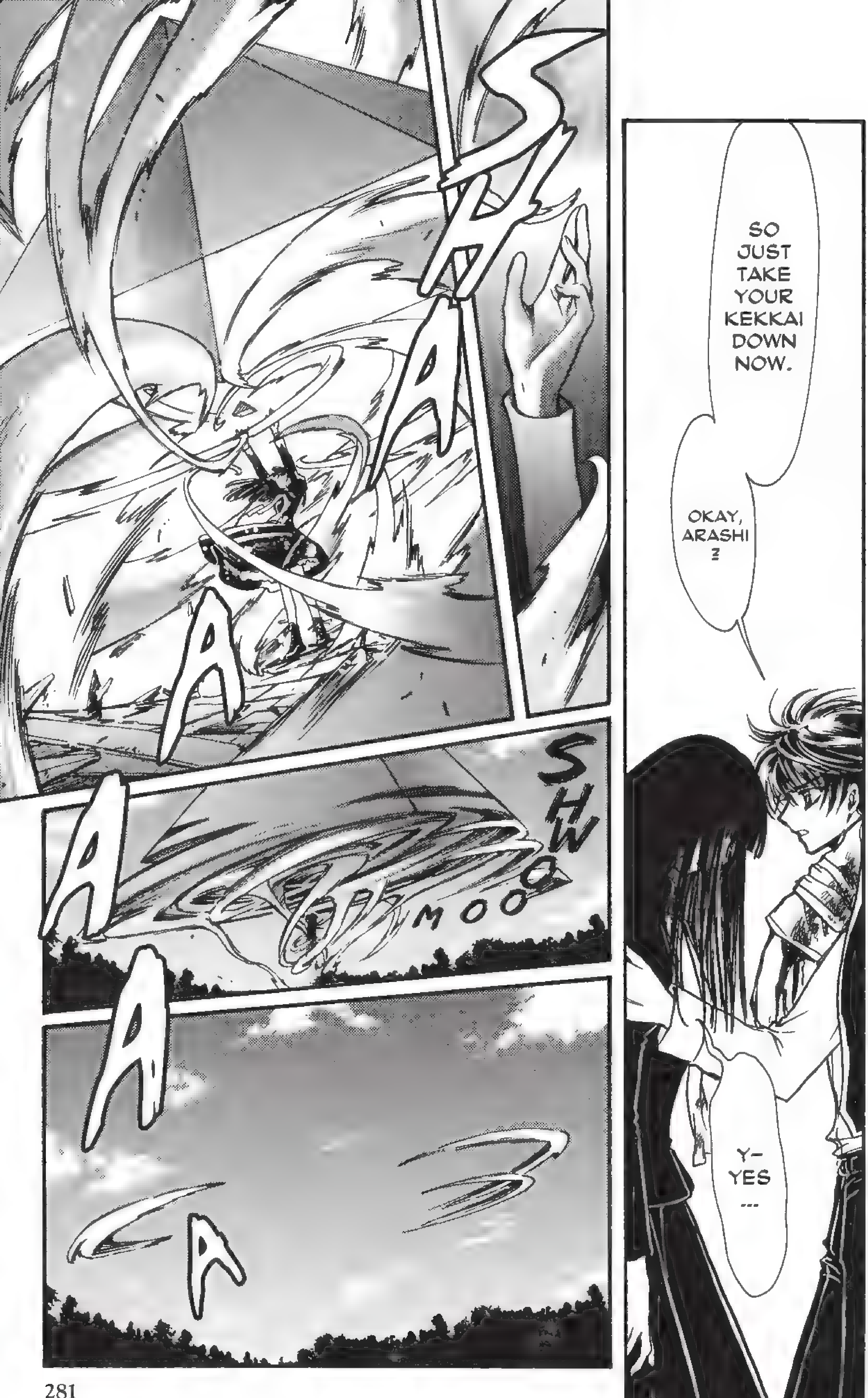

N— NO, BUT...
...WHAT ABOUT YOU?! YOU'RE—
AS LONG AS YOU'RE SAFE...
...EVERYTHING'S FINE.
HRGK
GSSH

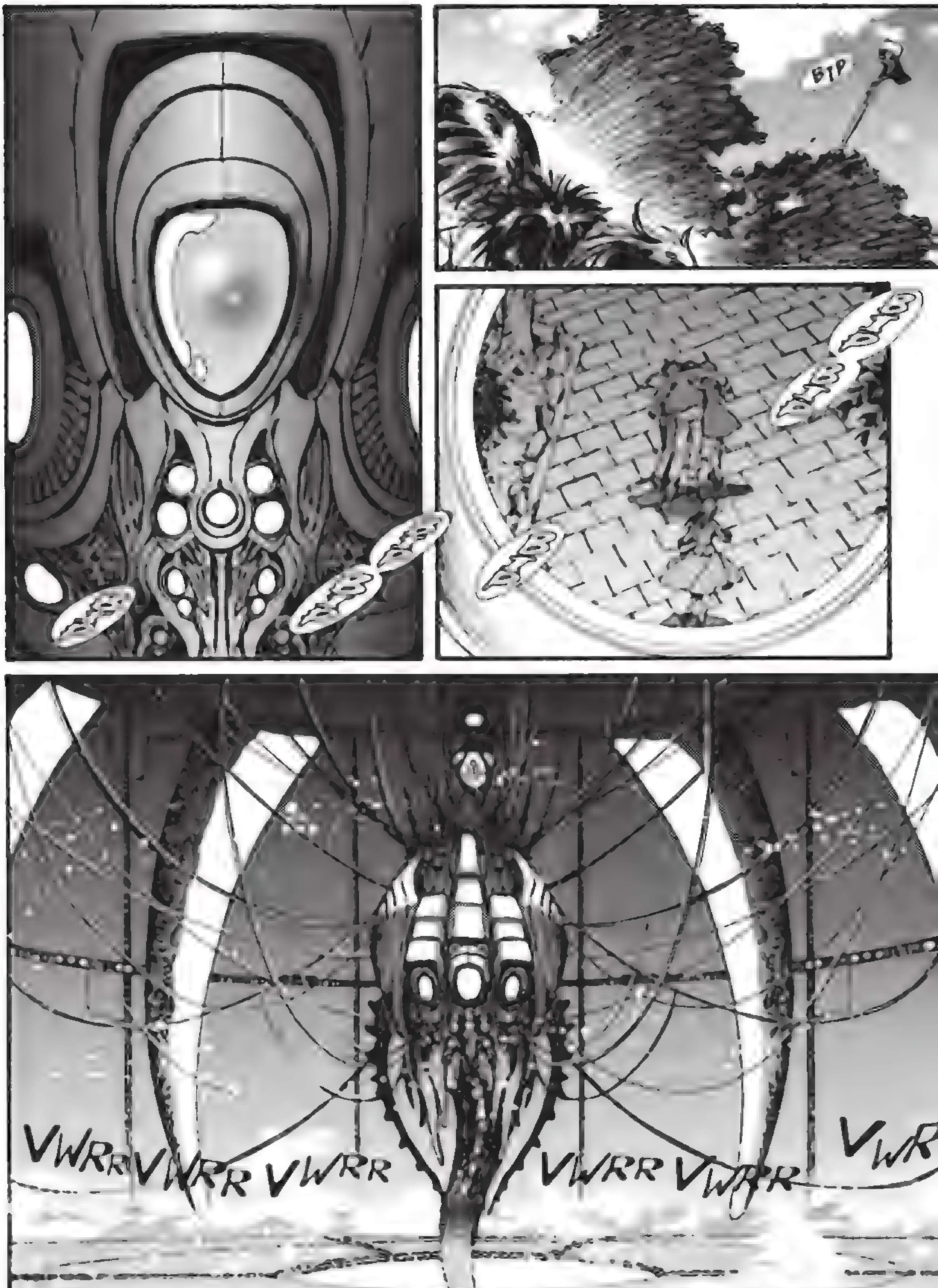

SORATA!
SORATA!
I KNEW ...
...THAT FAMILIAR WAS YOURS...

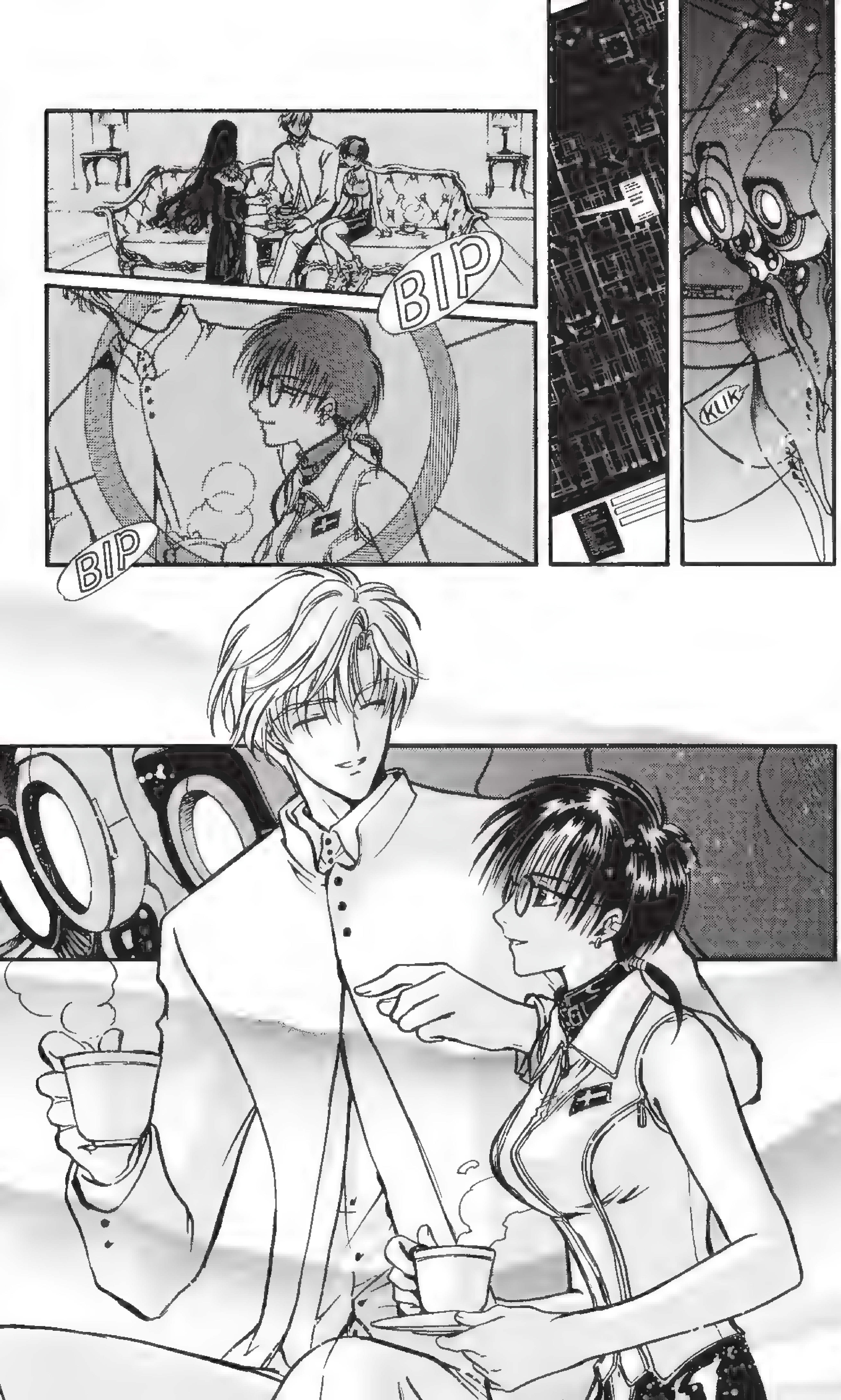

SKE
WE HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF THE KEKKAI.
I'LL HELP!
I made my decision. You're the one.
You're the one I give my life to.
FWSH
SORATA!

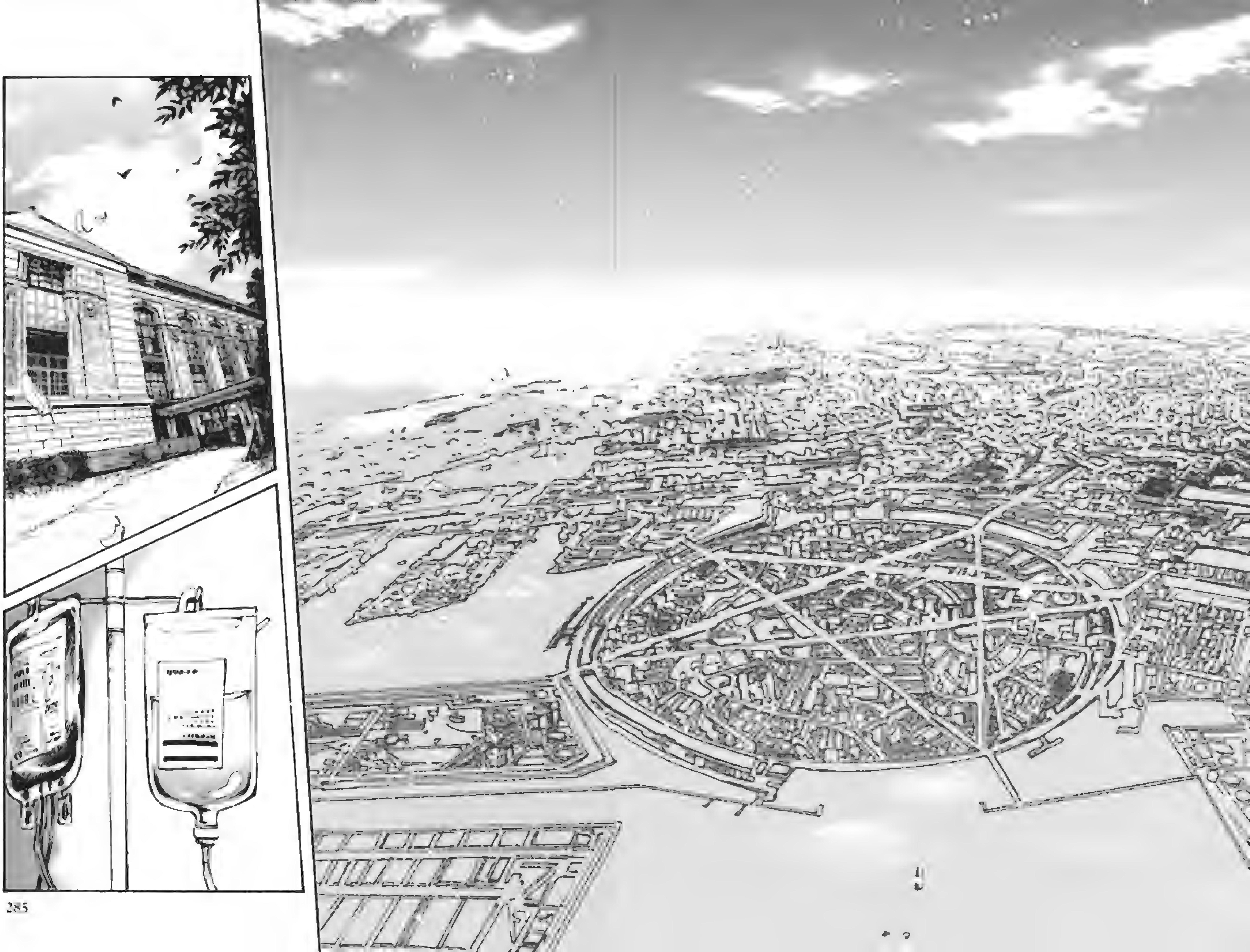

SORATA!
SORATA!
SWSH
ARASHI!
SORATA, OPEN YOUR EYES!

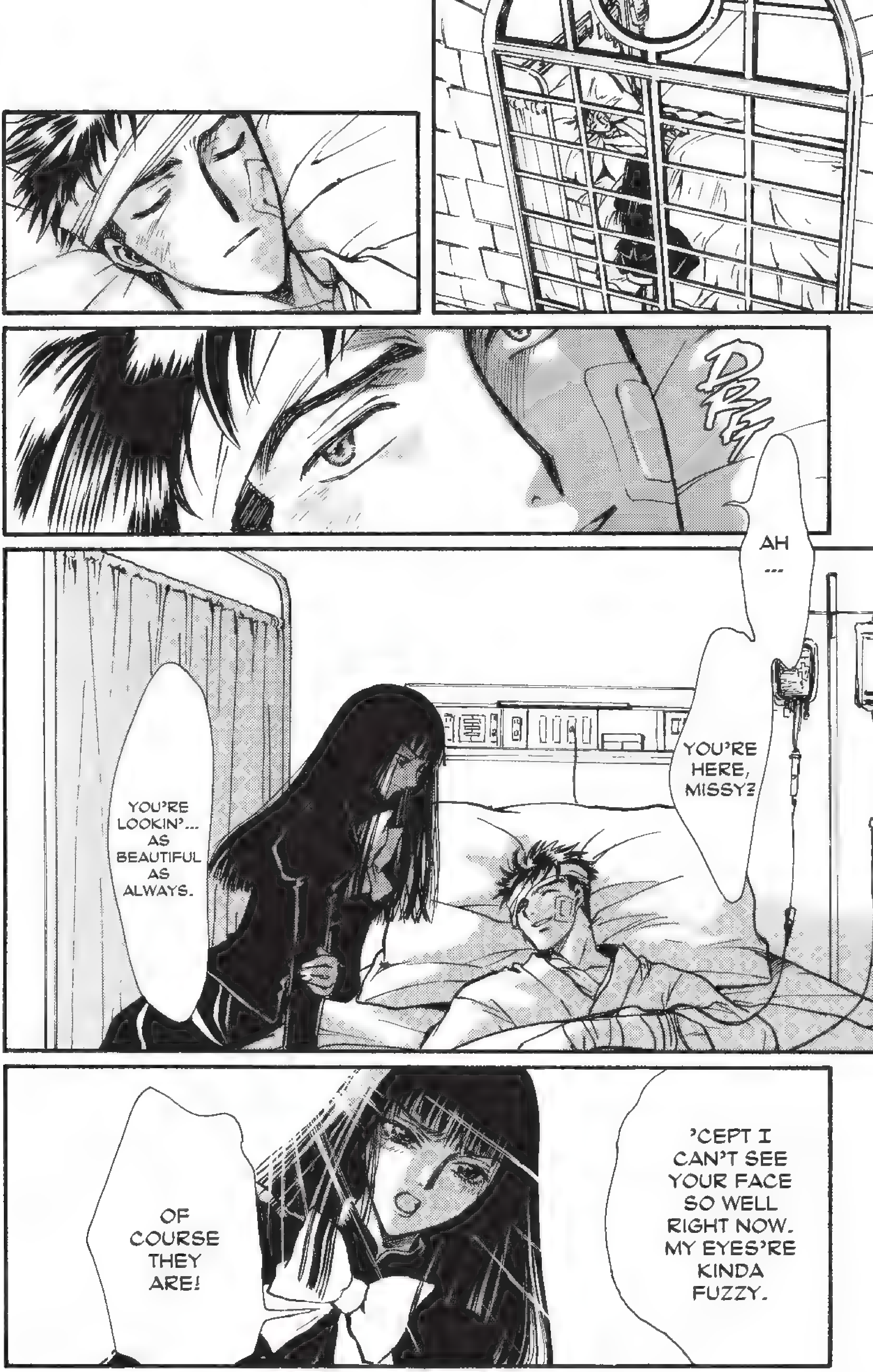

GRRP
ARASHI!
HE'S GOING TO BE FINE!
LISTEN TO ME. WE'LL GET HIM OUT OF HERE AND TAKE HIM TO A DOCTOR AND HE'LL BE *FINE*.
NOD

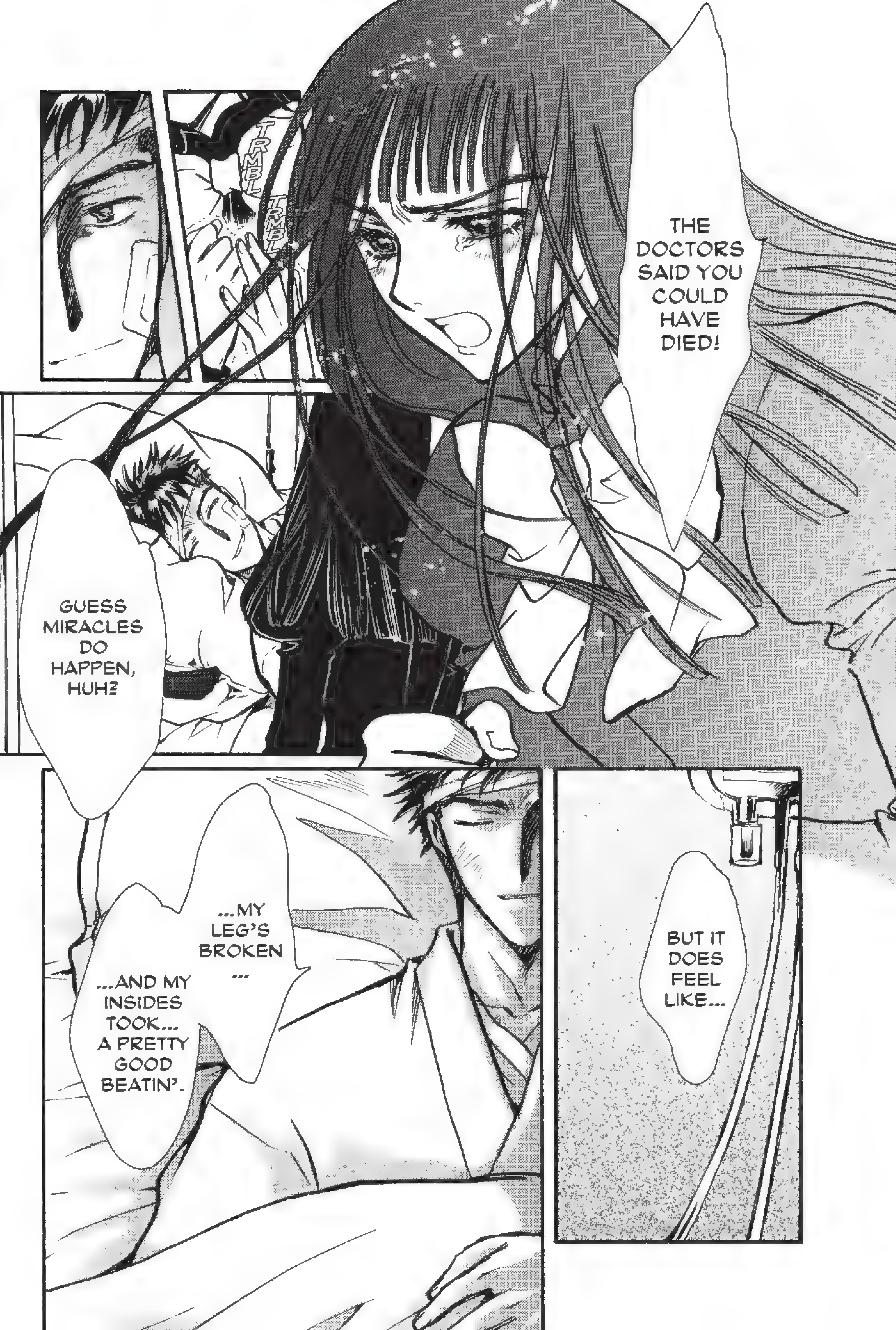

SO JUST TAKE YOUR KEKKAI DOWN NOW.
OKAY, ARASHI?
Y-YES...
SHAAA
AA
SHWOOOM
AAA
A

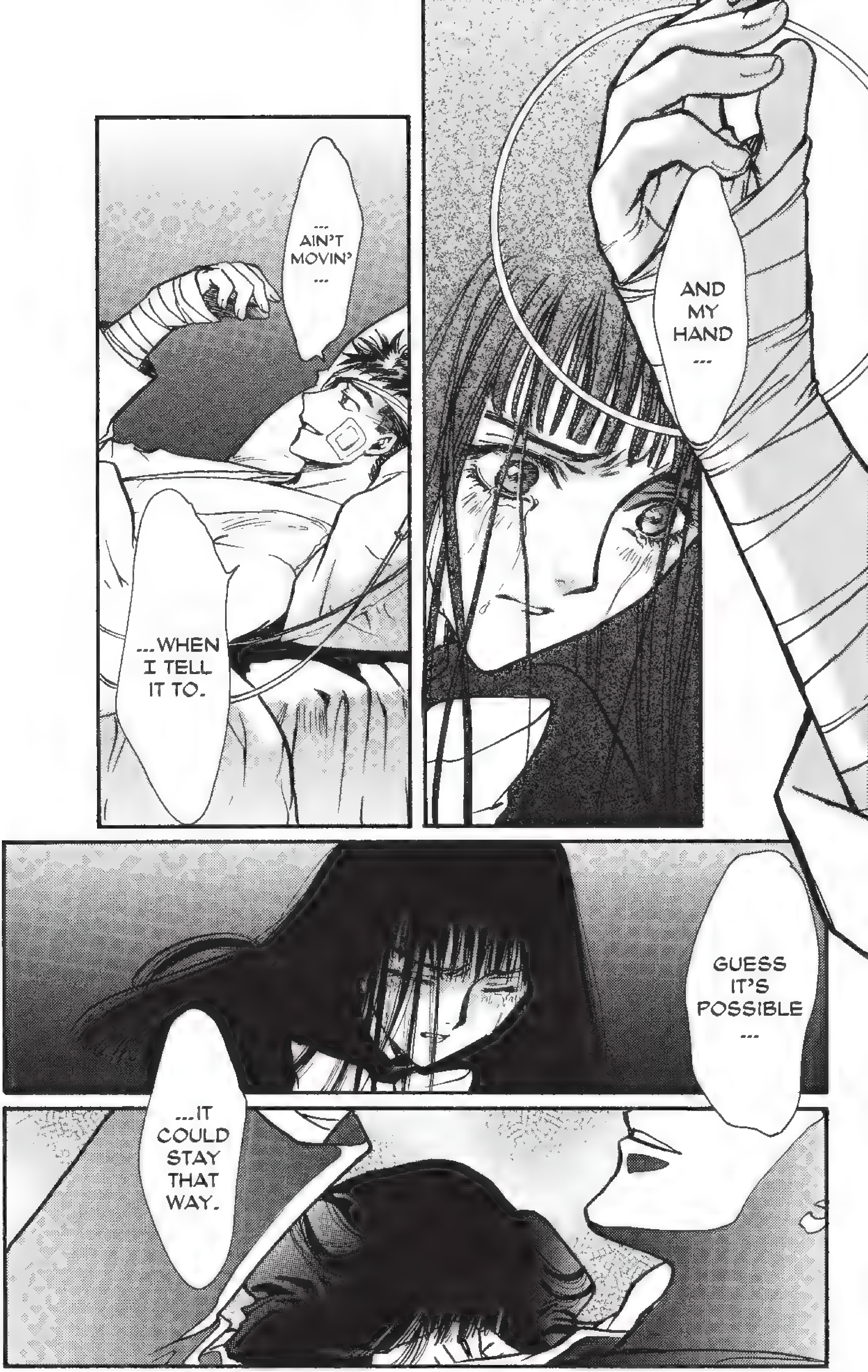

BIP
VWRR VWRR VWRR
VWRR VWRR
VWR

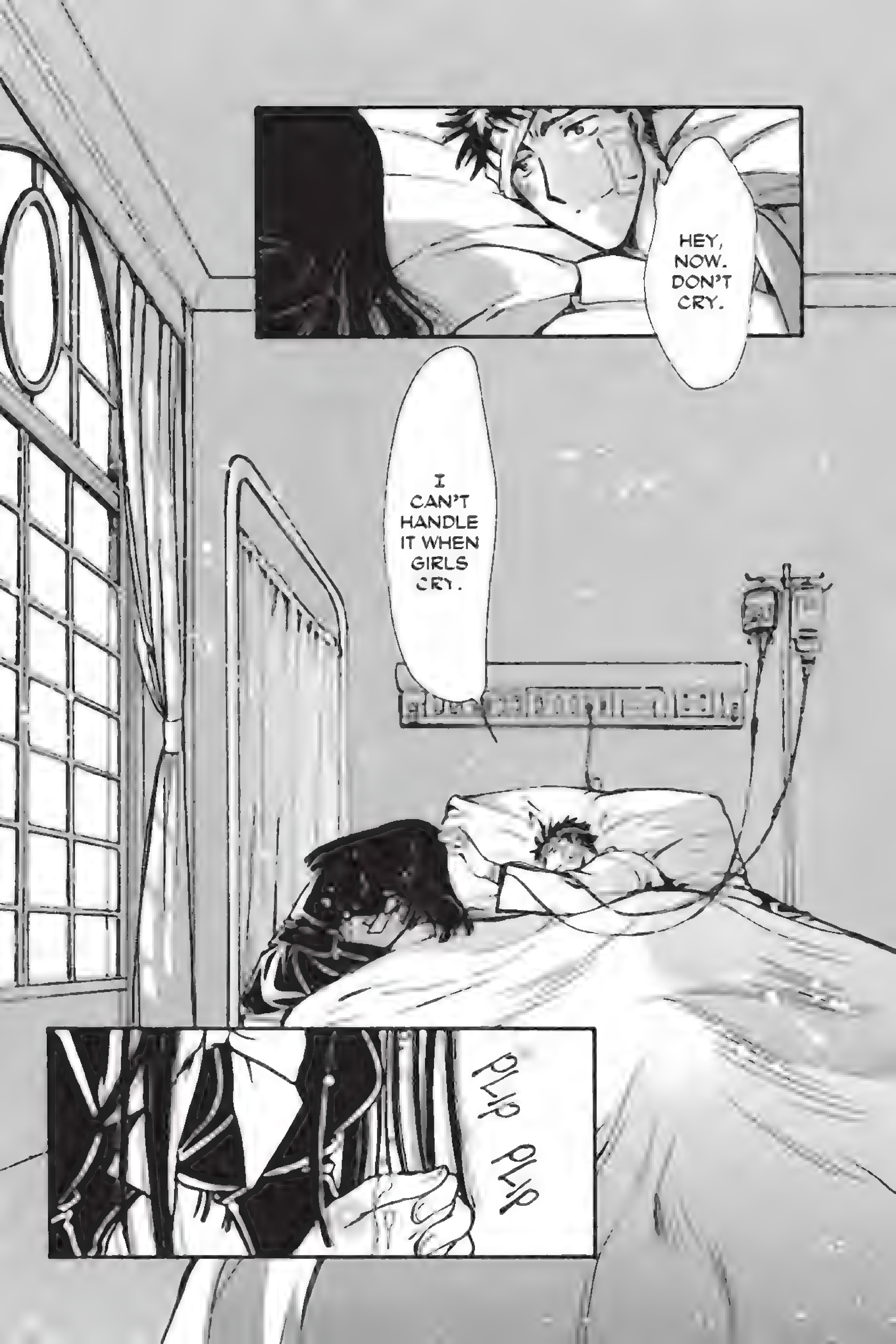

KLIK
BIP
BIP

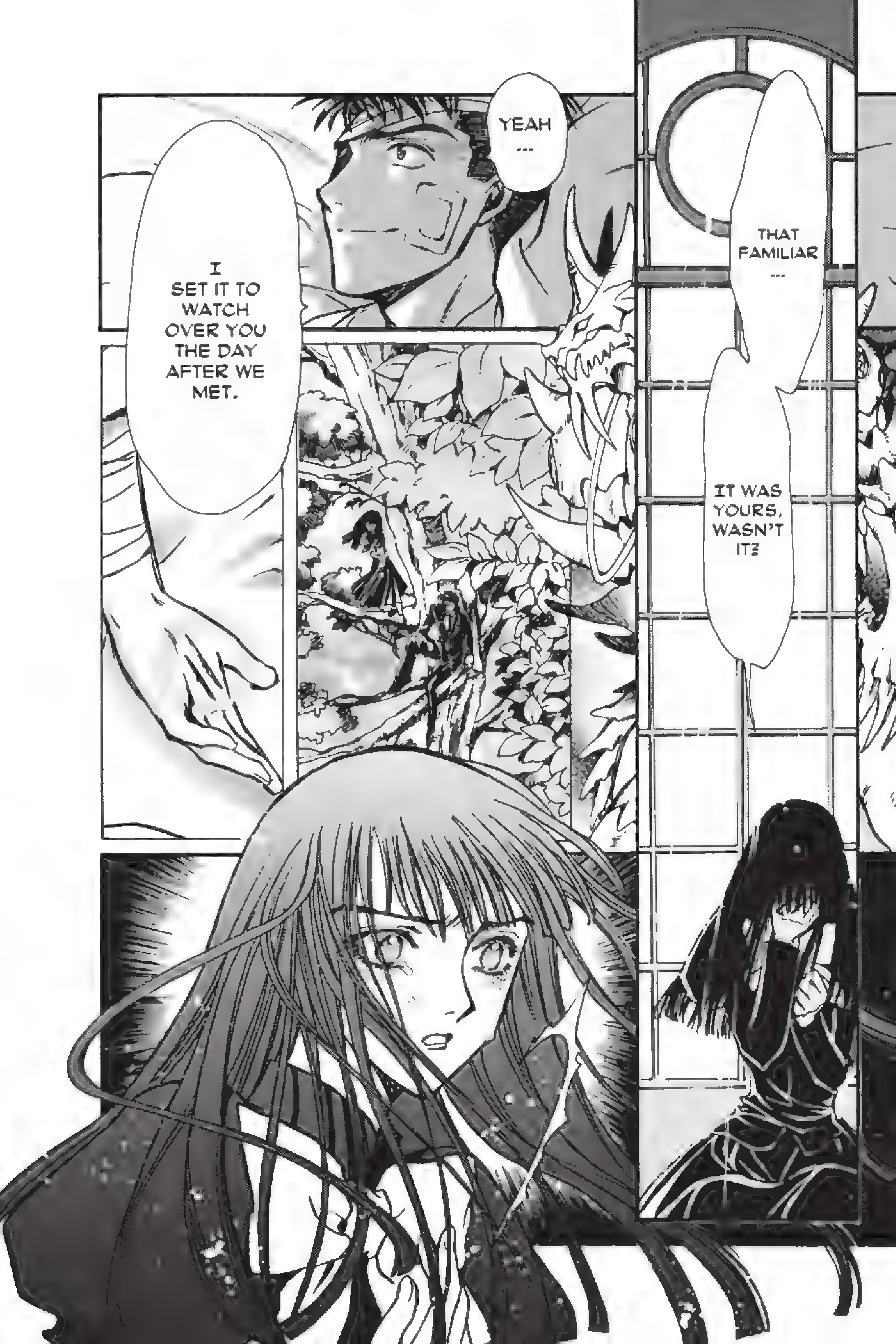


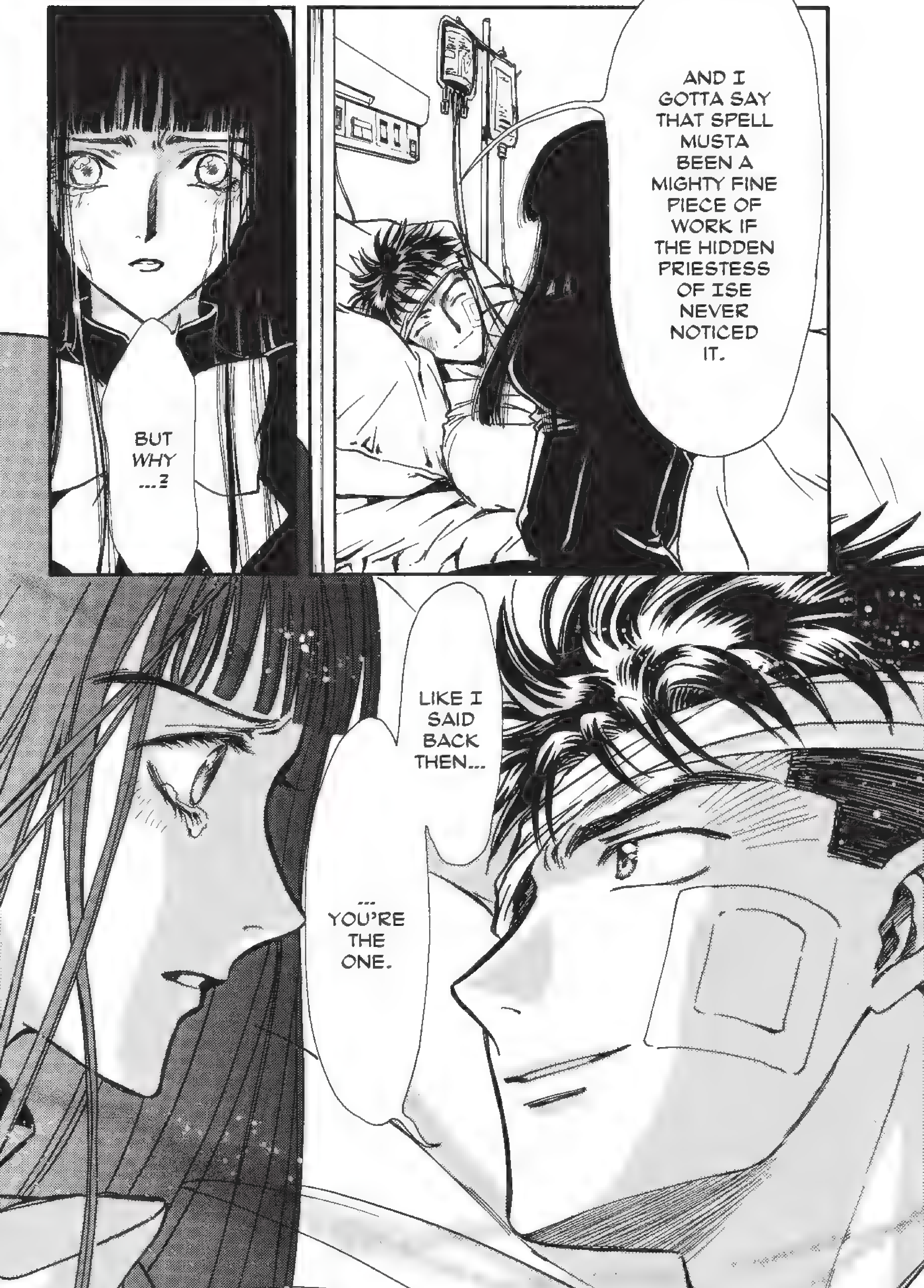

DAH
AH ...
YOU'RE HERE, MISSY?
YOU'RE LOOKIN'... AS BEAUTIFUL AS ALWAYS.
'CEPT I CAN'T SEE YOUR FACE SO WELL RIGHT NOW. MY EYES'RE KINDA FUZZY.
OF COURSE THEY ARE!

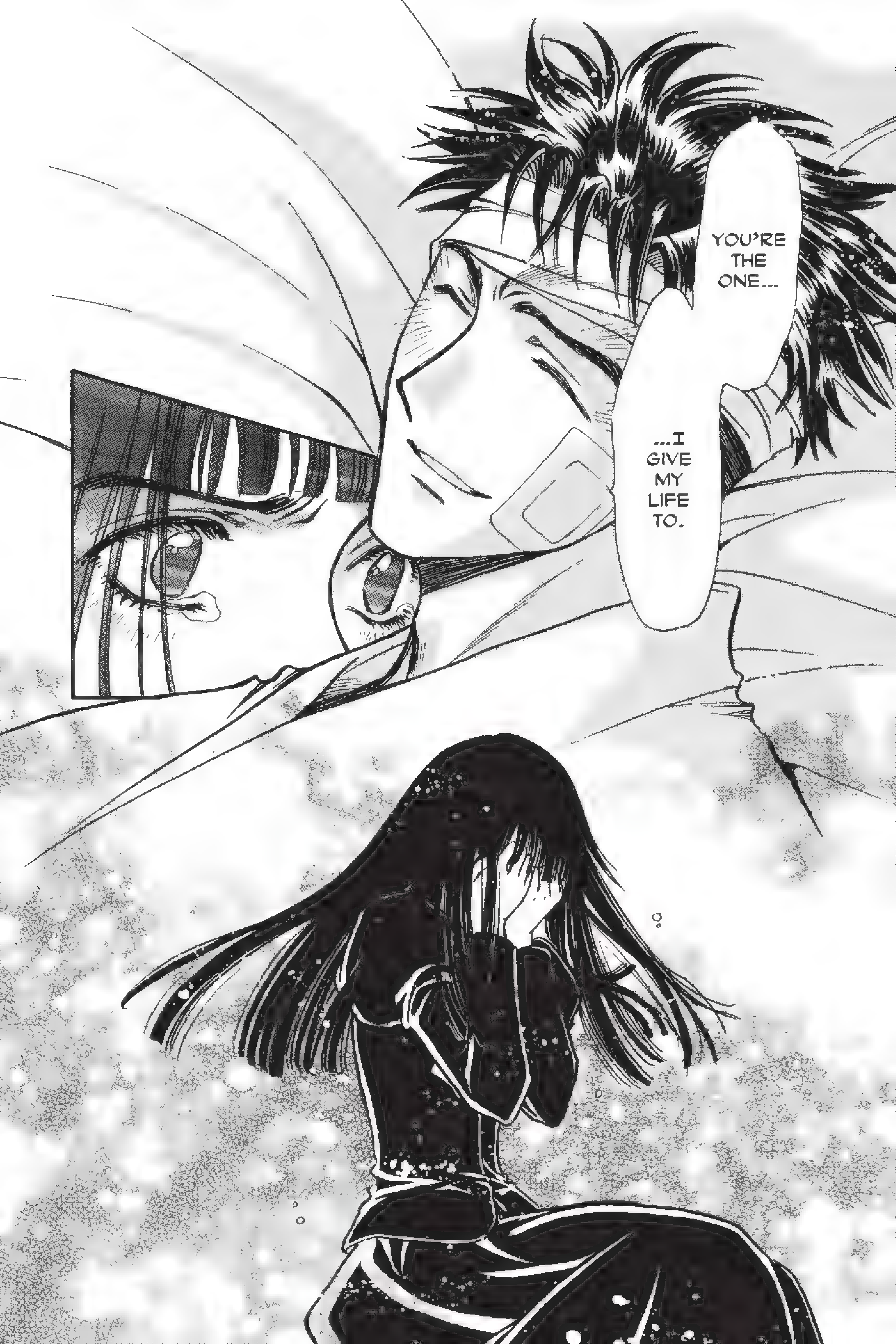

THE DOCTORS SAID YOU COULD HAVE DIED!
TRMBL TRMBL
GUESS MIRACLES DO HAPPEN, HUH?
BUT IT DOES FEEL LIKE...
...MY LEG'S BROKEN ...
...AND MY INSIDES TOOK... A PRETTY GOOD BEATIN'.

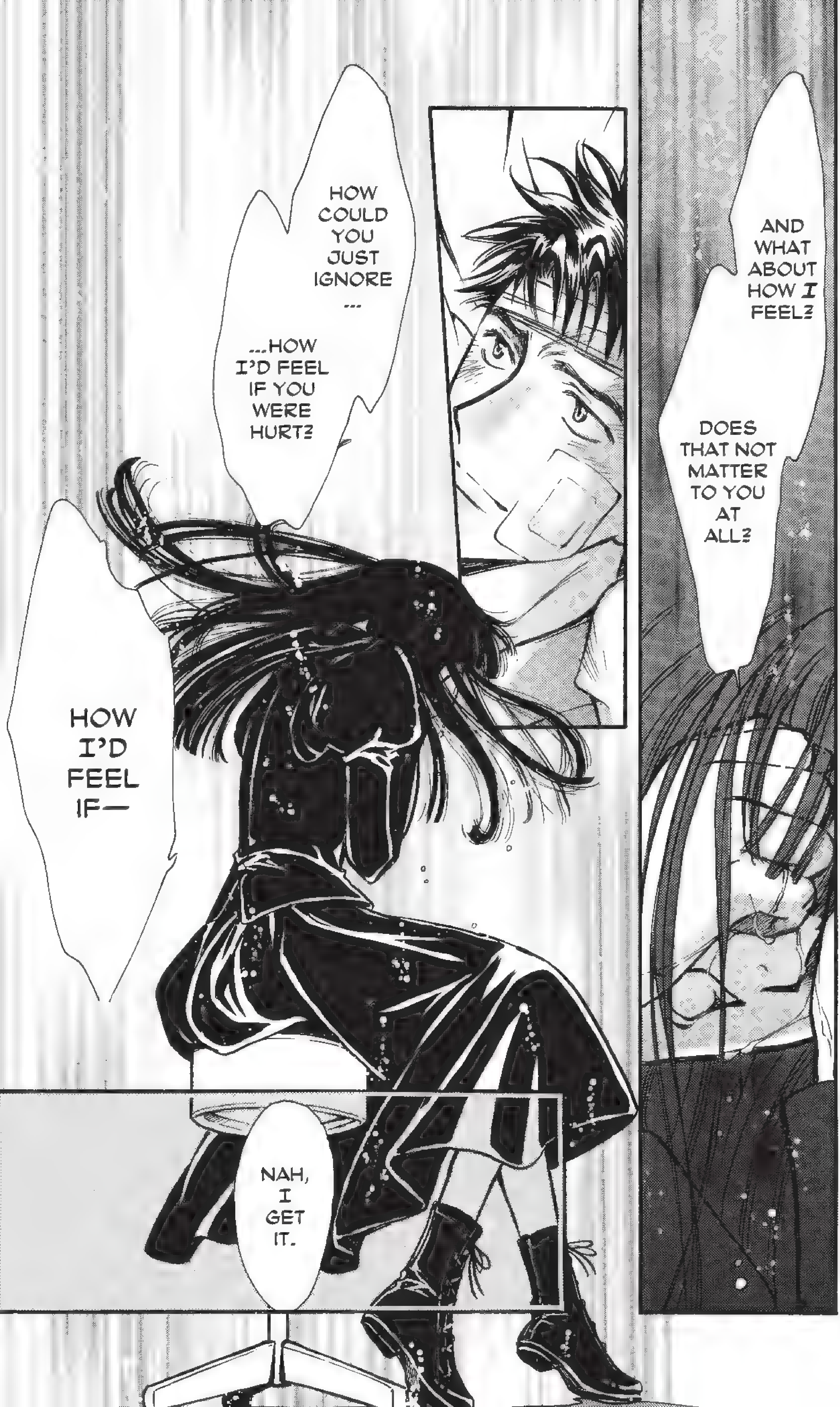

AND MY HAND...
...AIN'T MOVIN'...
...WHEN I TELL IT TO.
GUESS IT'S POSSIBLE...
...IT COULD STAY THAT WAY.

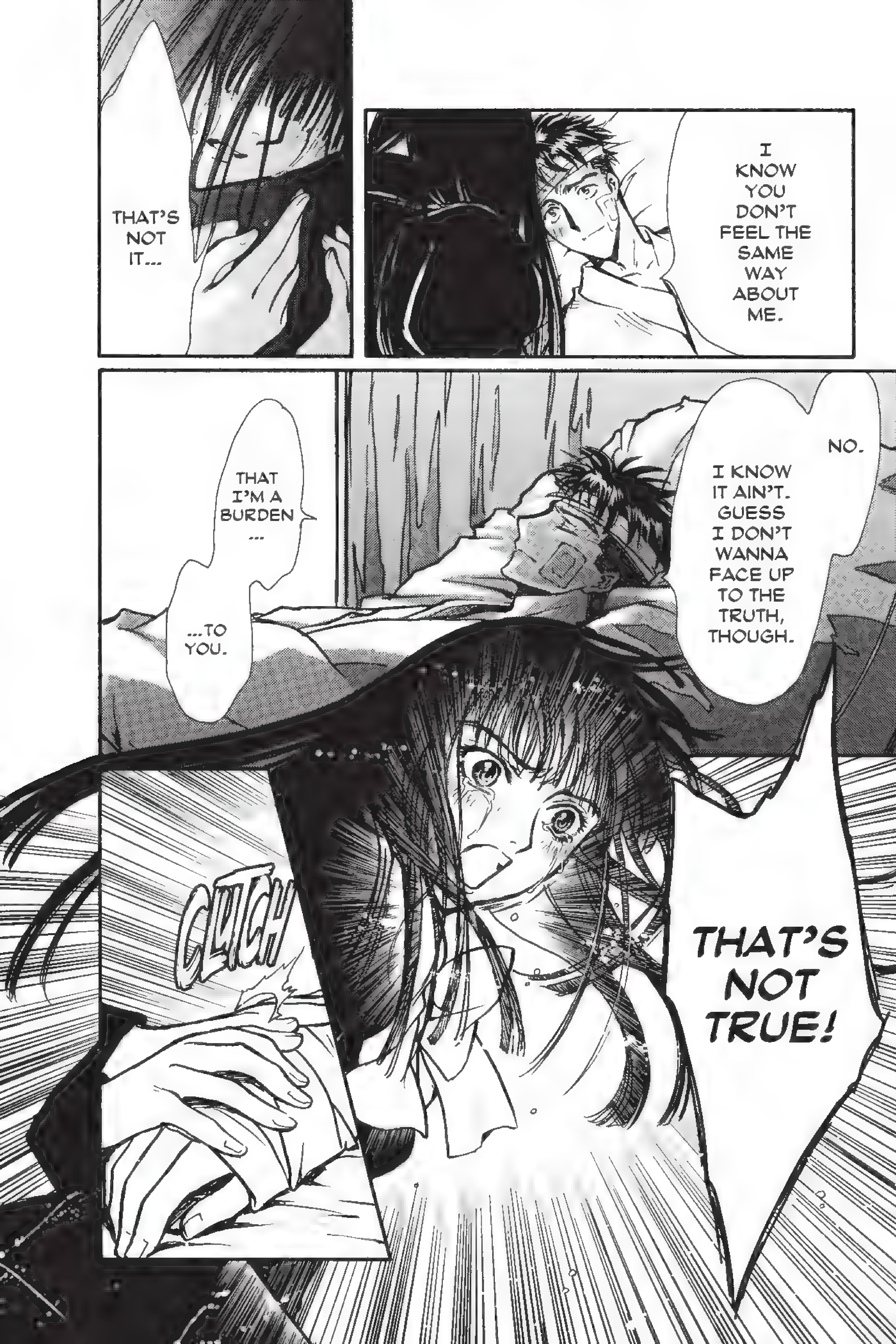

HEY, NOW. DON'T CRY.
I CAN'T HANDLE IT WHEN GIRLS CRY.
PLIP PLIP

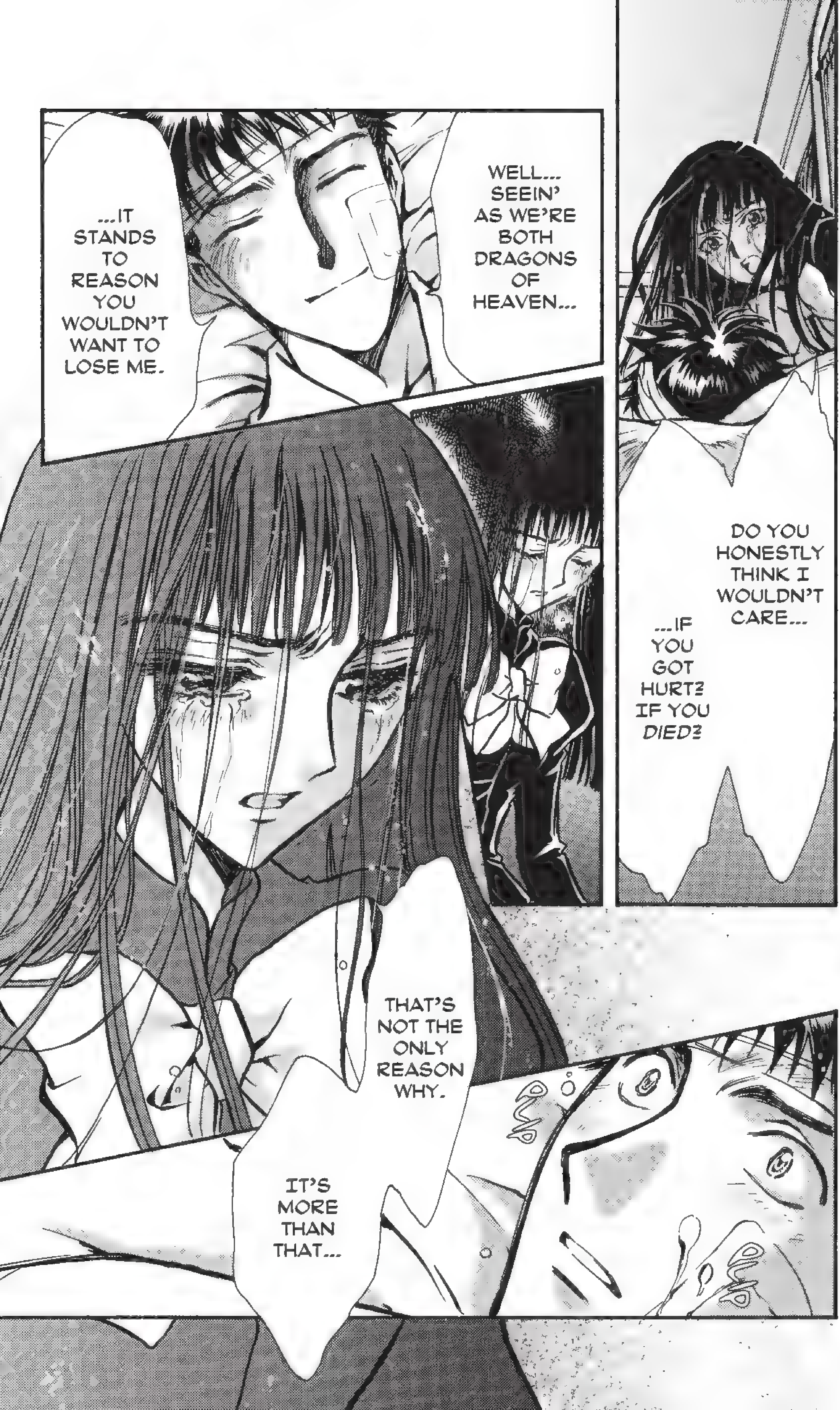

THAT FAMILIAR ...
IT WAS YOURS, WASN'T IT?
YEAH ...
I SET IT TO WATCH OVER YOU THE DAY AFTER WE MET.

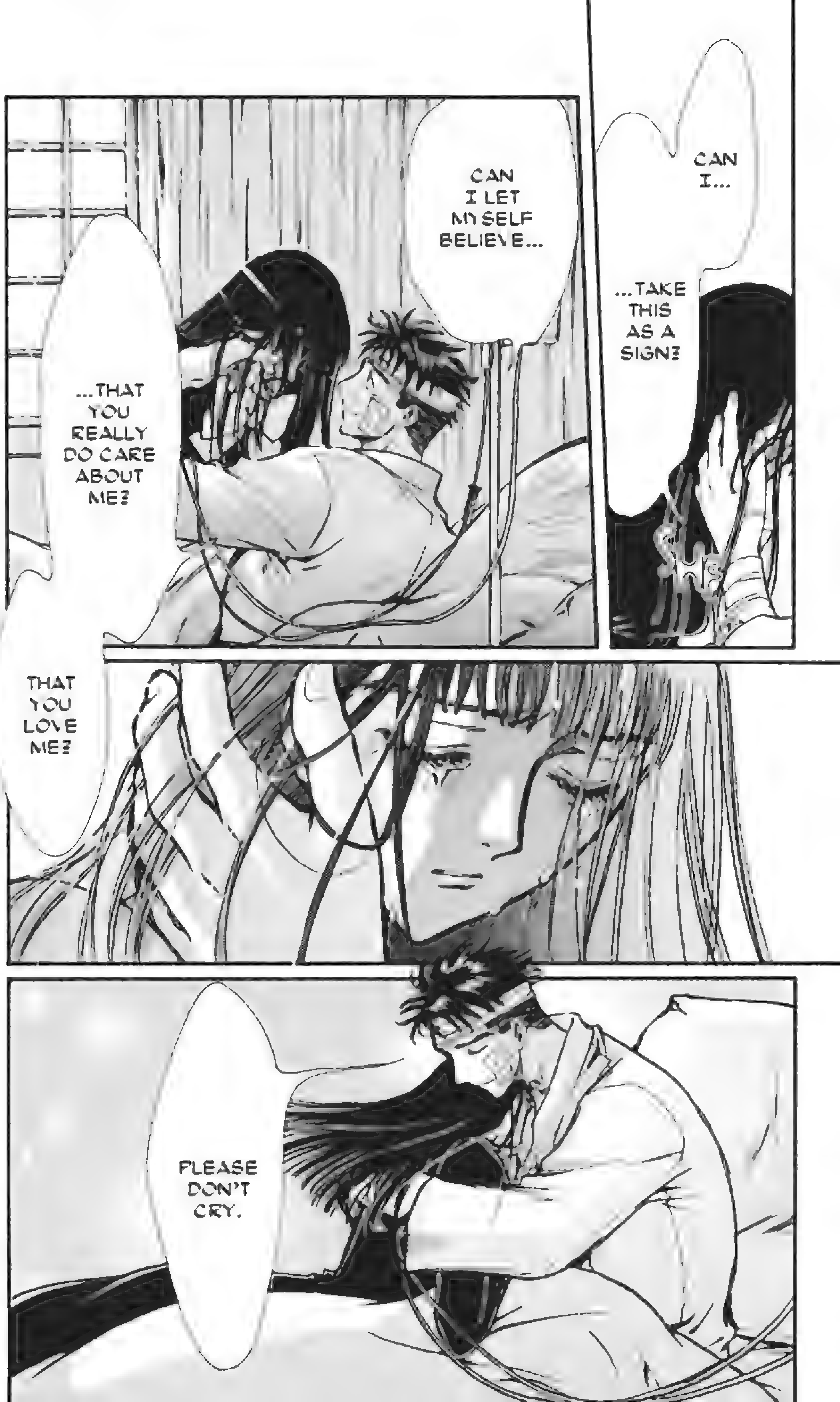

AND I GOTTA SAY THAT SPELL MUSTA BEEN A MIGHTY FINE PIECE OF WORK IF THE HIDDEN PRIESTESS OF ISE NEVER NOTICED IT.
BUT WHY ...?
LIKE I SAID BACK THEN...
...YOU'RE THE ONE.

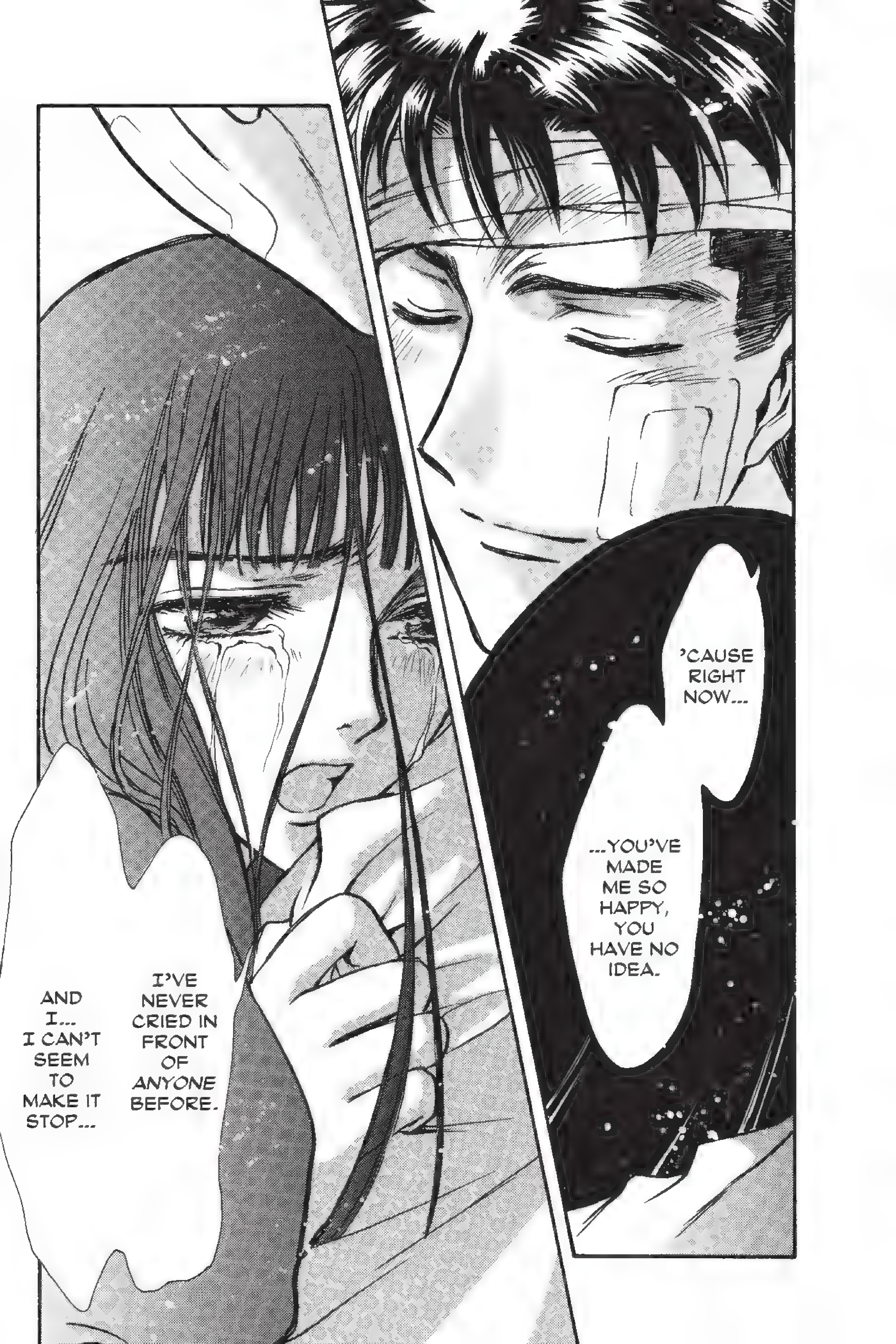

YOU'RE THE ONE...
...I GIVE MY LIFE TO.

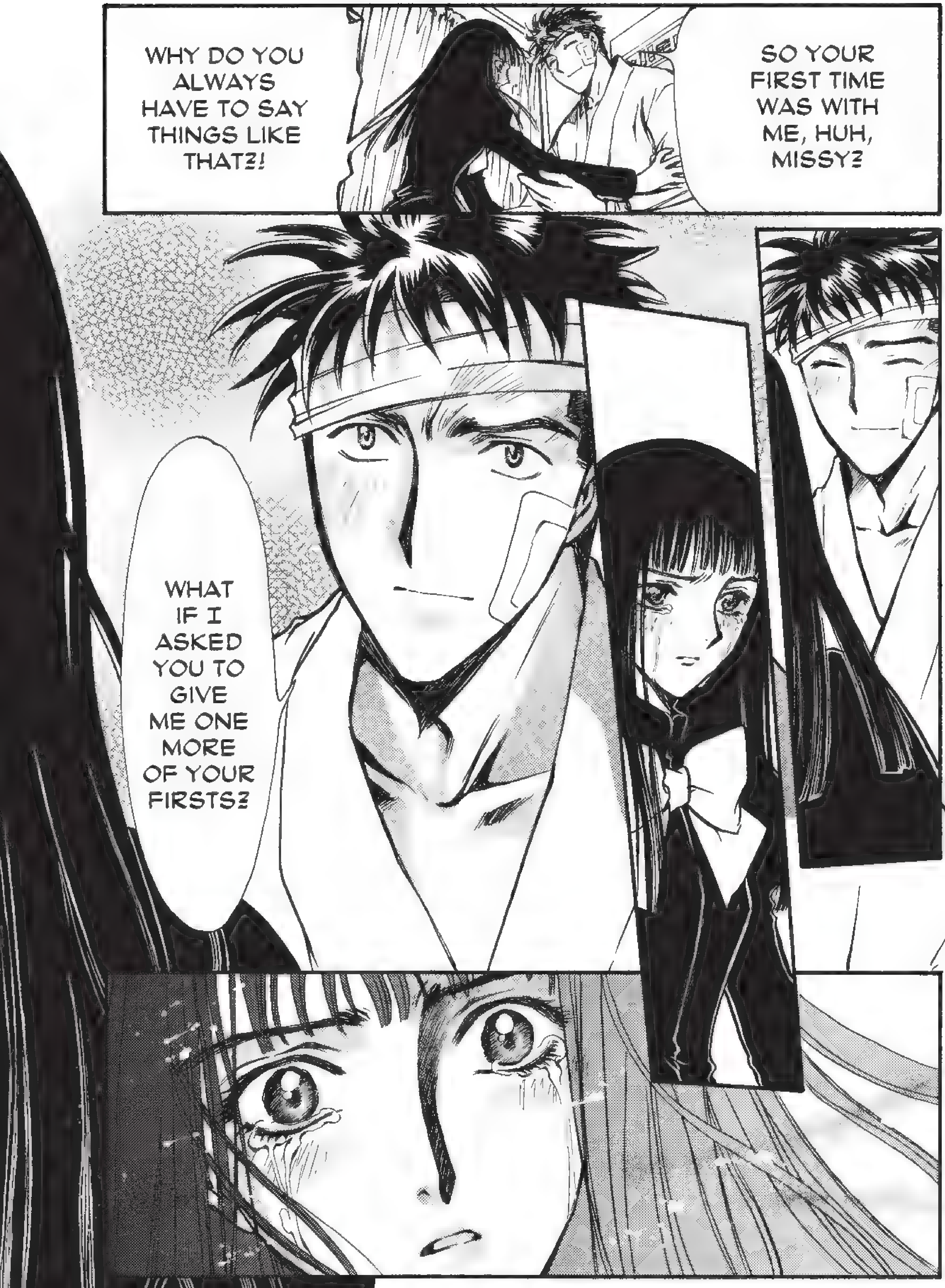

AND WHAT ABOUT HOW *I* FEEL?
DOES THAT NOT MATTER TO YOU AT ALL?
HOW COULD YOU JUST IGNORE ...
...HOW I'D FEEL IF YOU WERE HURT?
HOW I'D FEEL IF—
NAH, I GET IT.

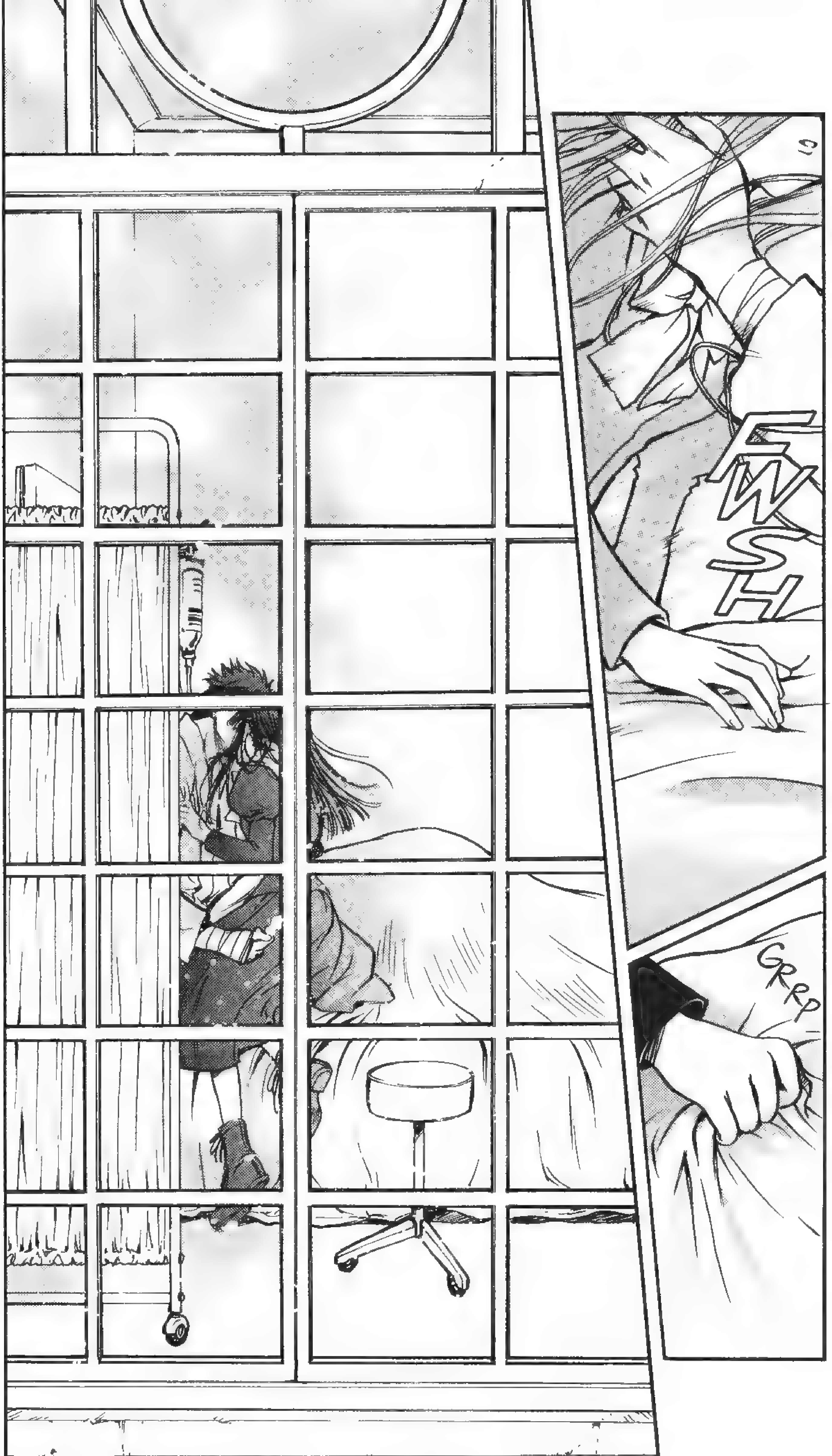

I KNOW YOU DON'T FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT ME.
THAT'S NOT IT...
NO.
I KNOW IT AIN'T. GUESS I DON'T WANNA FACE UP TO THE TRUTH, THOUGH.
THAT I'M A BURDEN ...
...TO YOU.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
CLUTCH

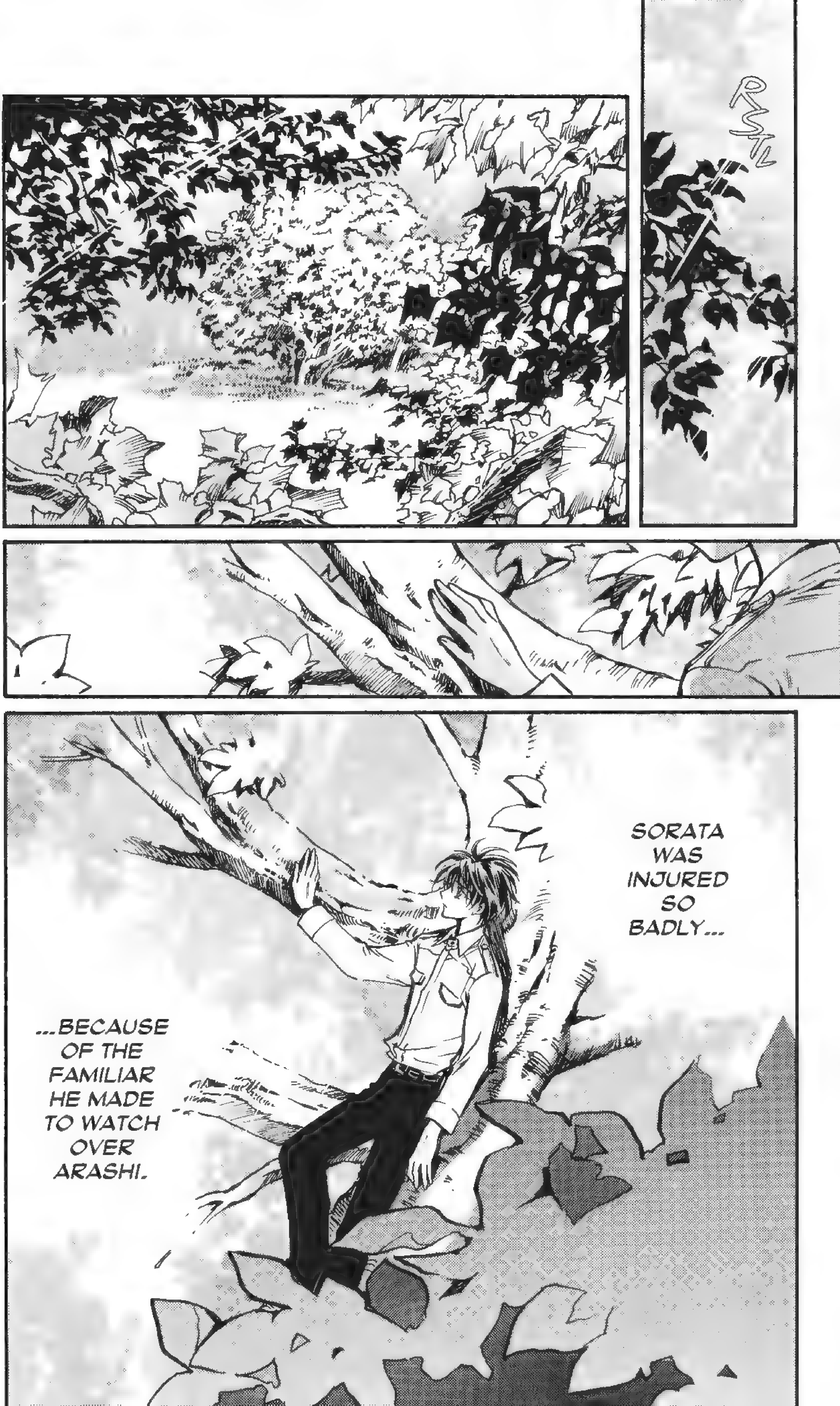

WELL... SEEIN' AS WE'RE BOTH DRAGONS OF HEAVEN...
...IT STANDS TO REASON YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO LOSE ME.
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK I WOULDN'T CARE...
...IF YOU GOT HURT? IF YOU *DIED*?
THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON WHY.
IT'S MORE THAN THAT...

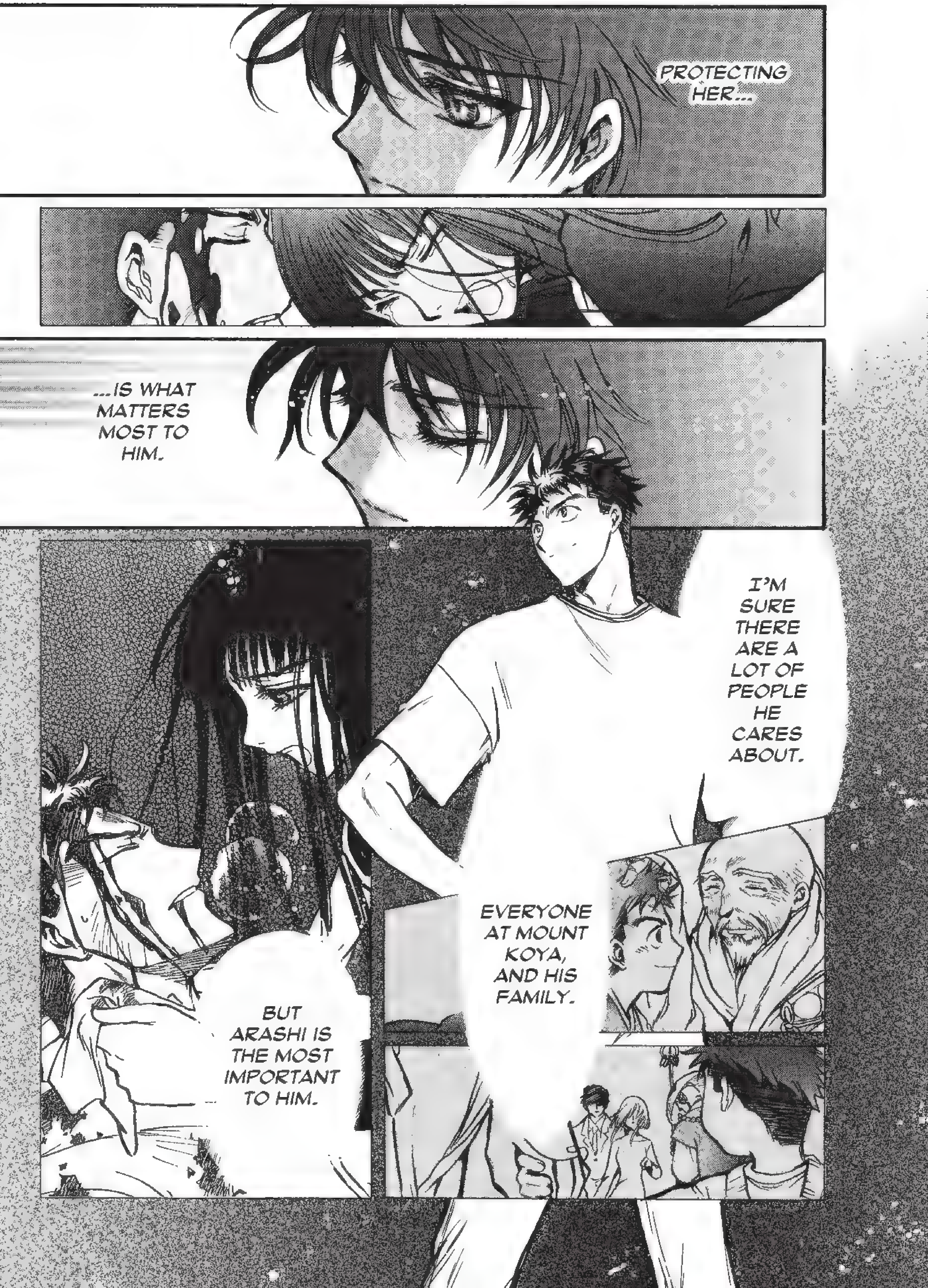

CAN I...
...TAKE THIS AS A SIGN?
CAN I LET MYSELF BELIEVE...
...THAT YOU REALLY DO CARE ABOUT ME?
THAT YOU LOVE ME?
PLEASE DON'T CRY.

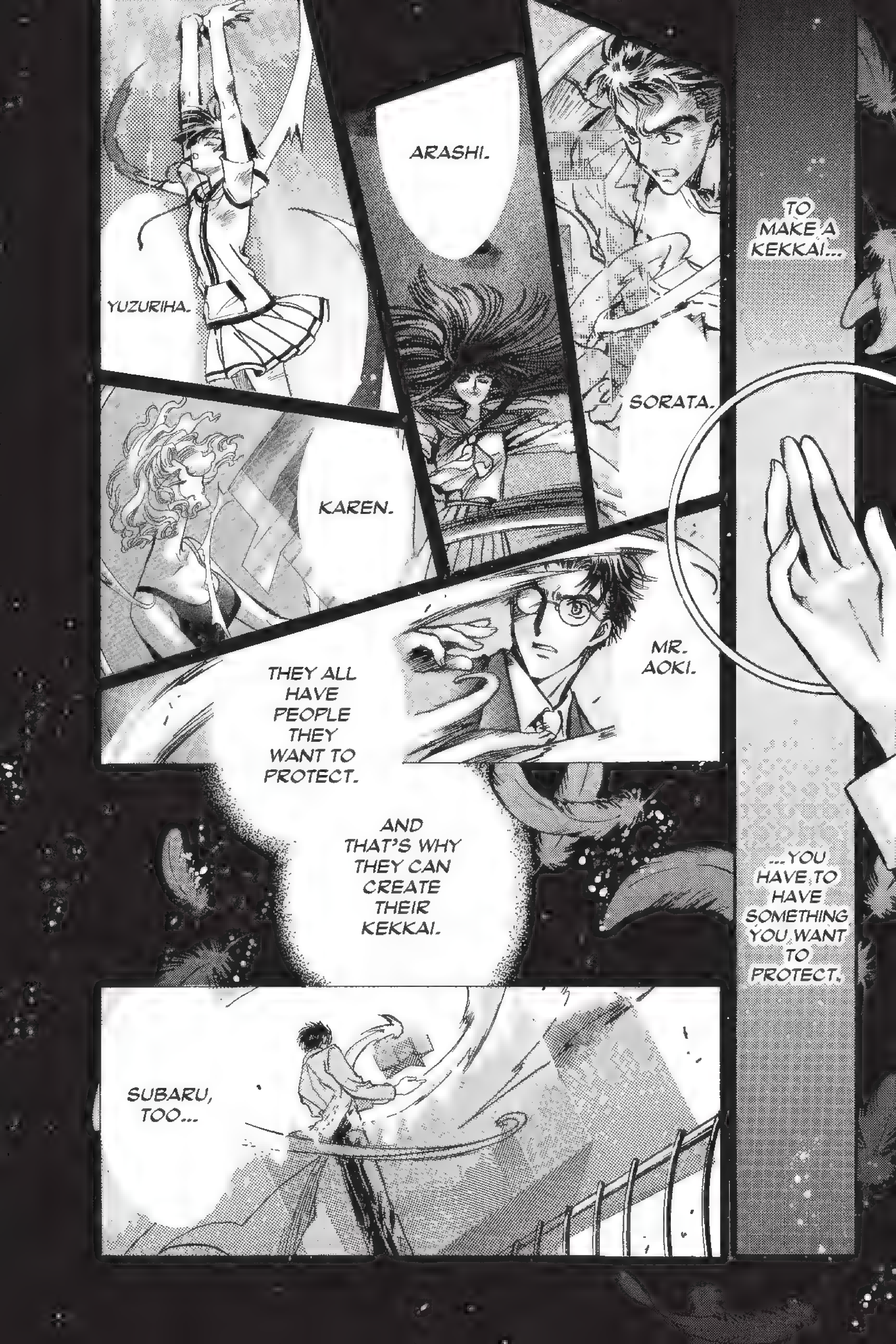

'CAUSE RIGHT NOW...
...YOU'VE MADE ME SO HAPPY, YOU HAVE NO IDEA.
I'VE NEVER CRIED IN FRONT OF *ANYONE* BEFORE.
AND I... I CAN'T SEEM TO MAKE IT STOP...

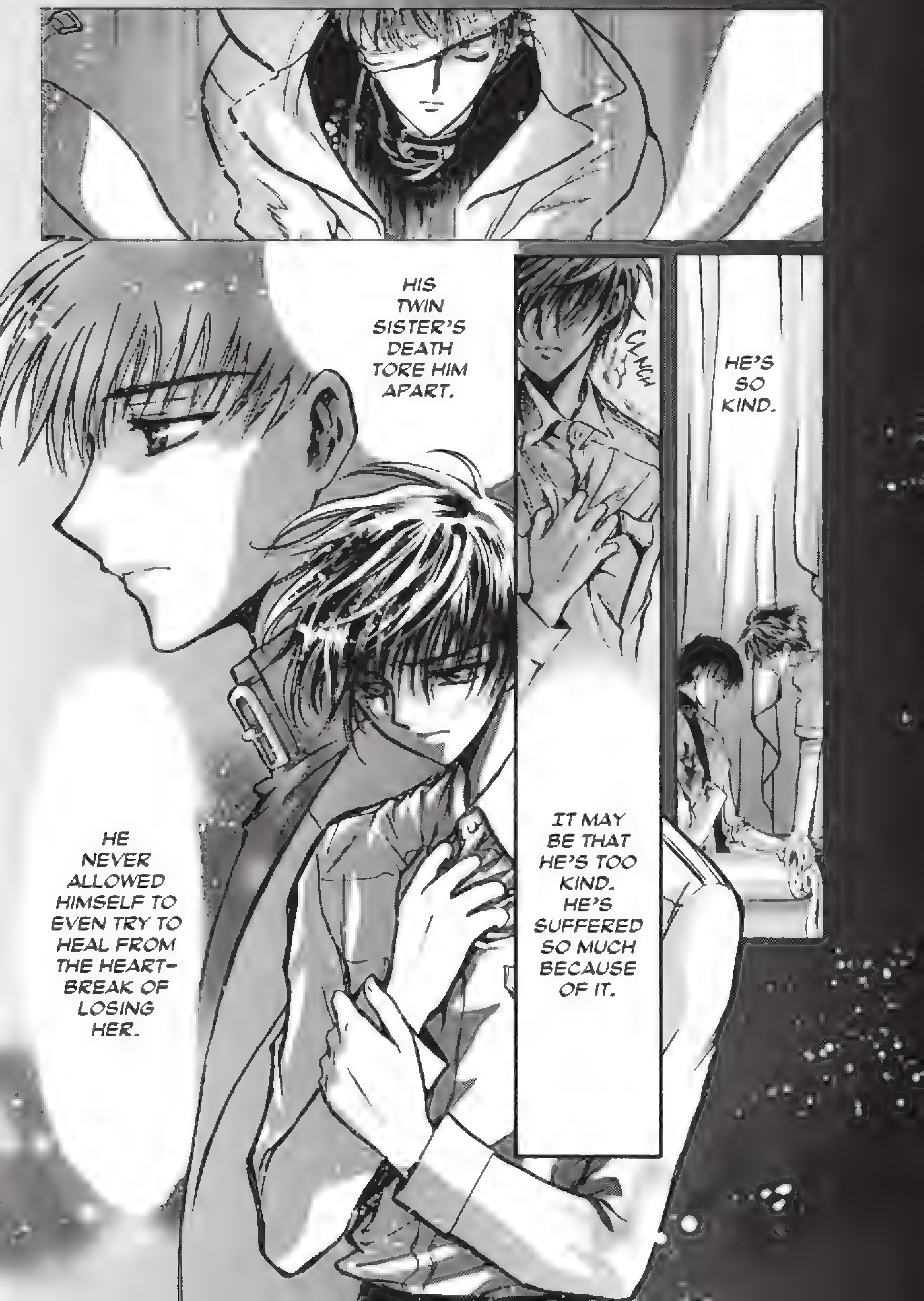

SO YOUR FIRST TIME WAS WITH ME, HUH, MISSY?
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO SAY THINGS LIKE THAT?!
WHAT IF I ASKED YOU TO GIVE ME ONE MORE OF YOUR FIRSTS?

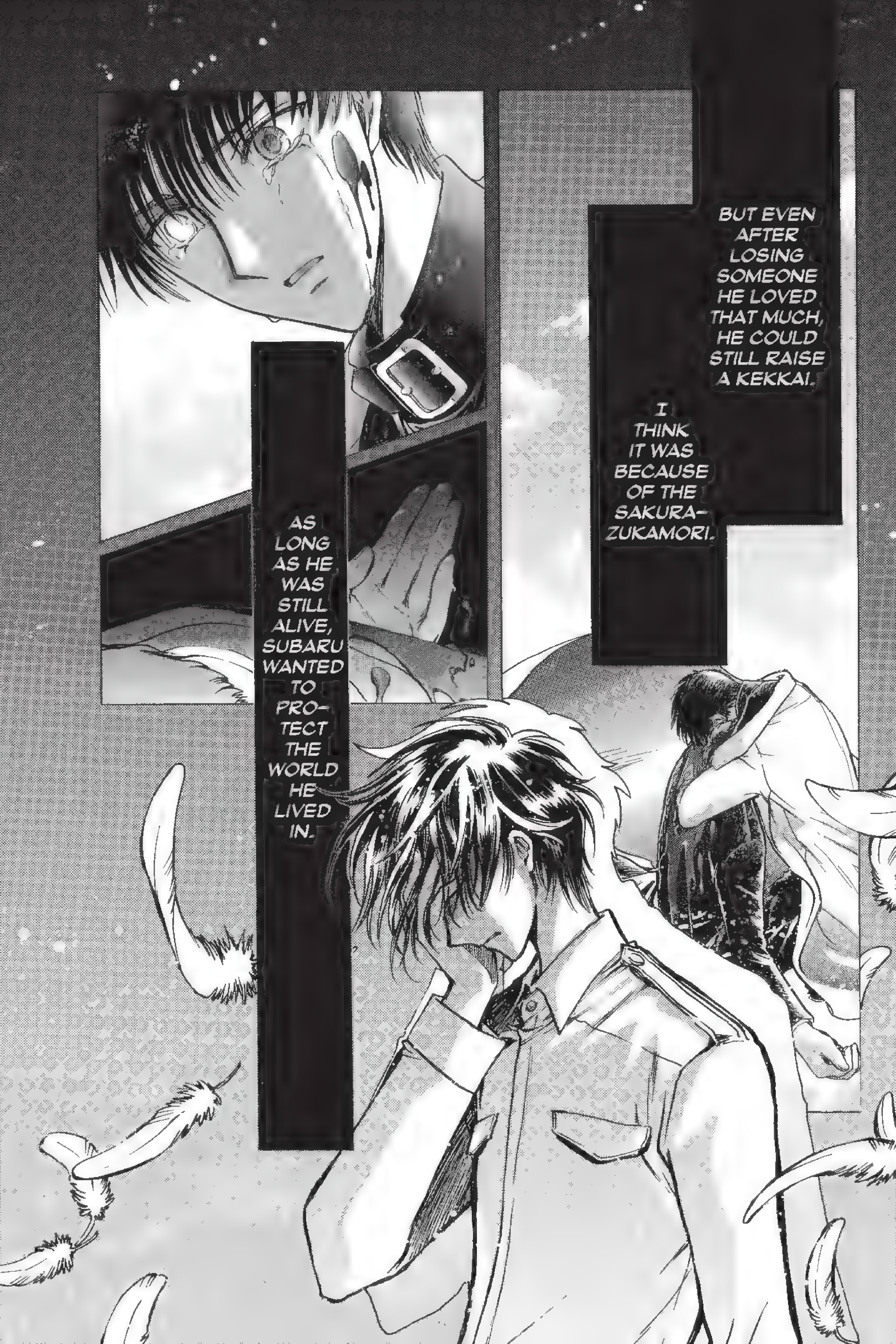

FWSH
GRRP

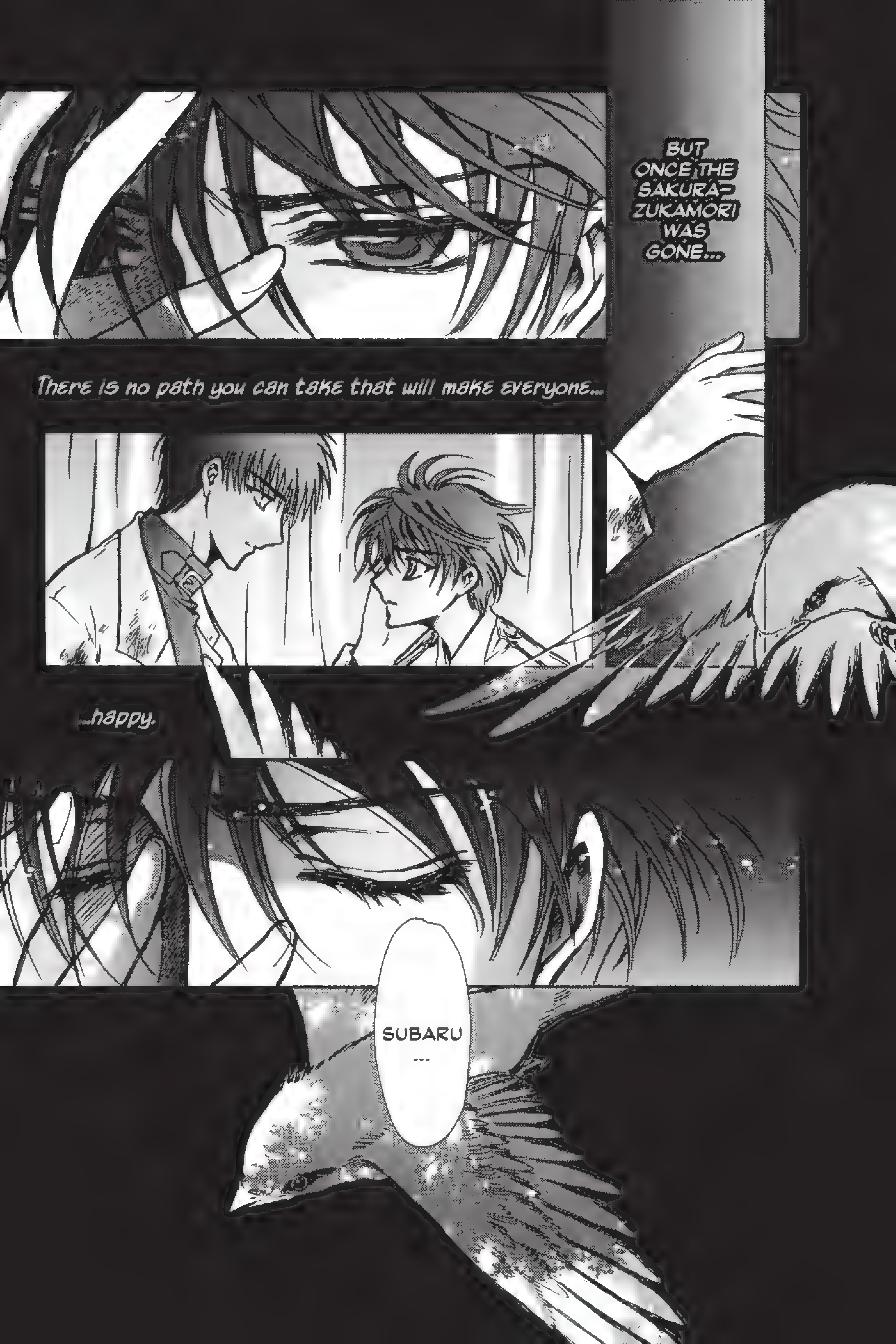

RSTL
SORATA WAS INJURED SO BADLY...
...BECAUSE OF THE FAMILIAR HE MADE TO WATCH OVER ARASHI.

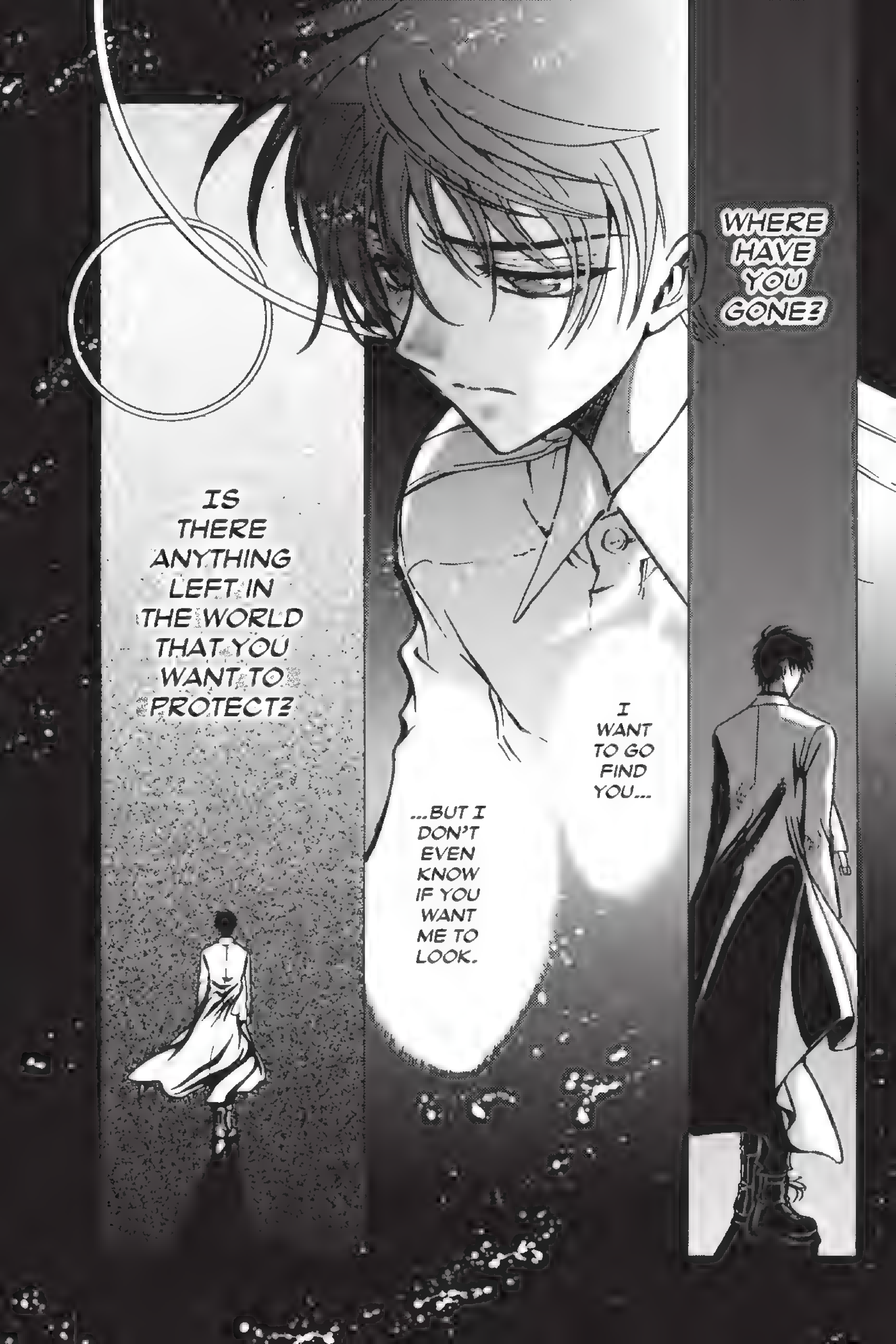

PROTECTING HER...
...IS WHAT MATTERS MOST TO HIM.
I'M SURE THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE HE CARES ABOUT.
EVERYONE AT MOUNT KOYA, AND HIS FAMILY.
BUT ARASHI IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO HIM.

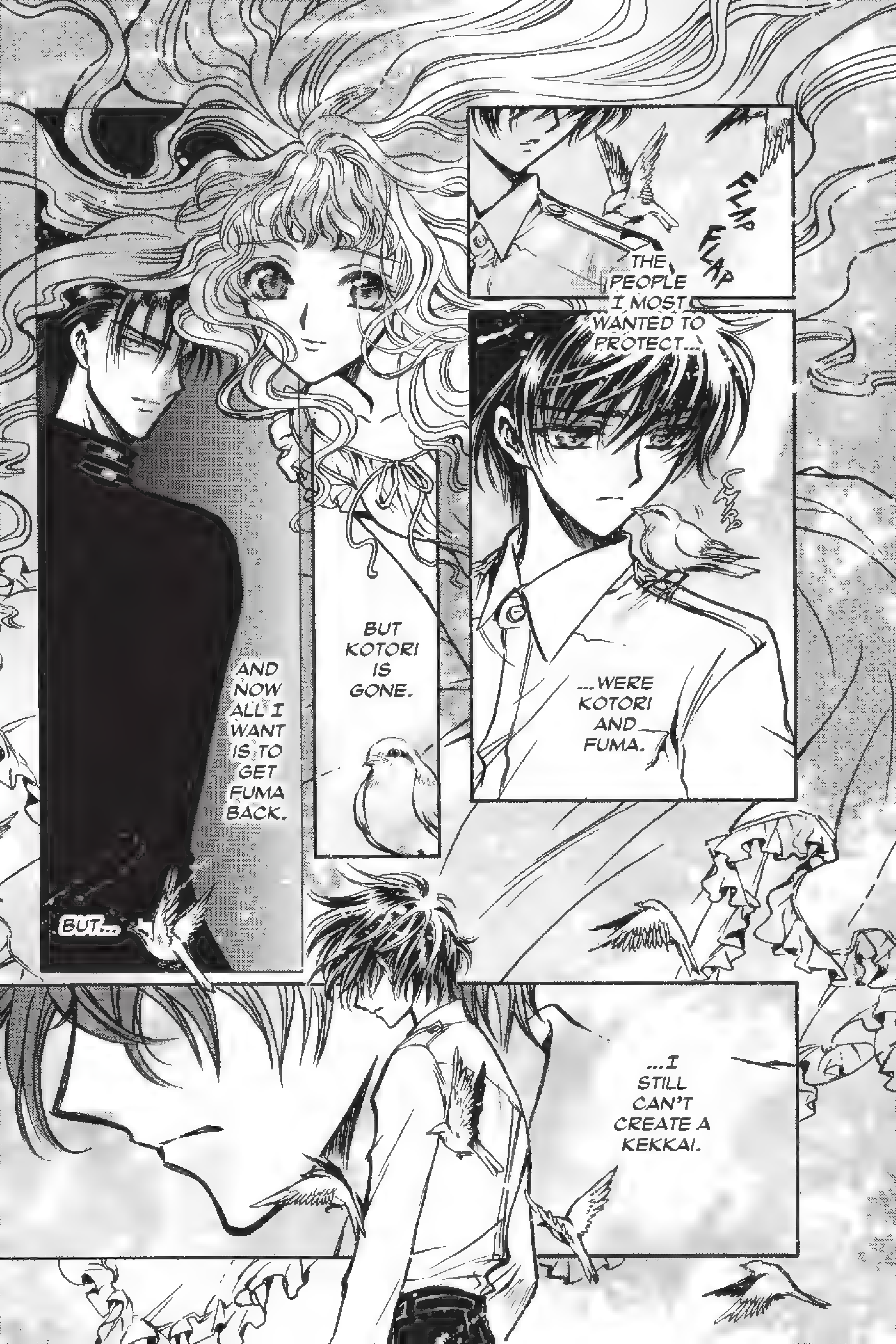

TO MAKE A KEKKAI...
...YOU HAVE TO HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO PROTECT.
SORATA.
ARASHI.
YUZURIHA.
KAREN.
MR. AOKI.
THEY ALL HAVE PEOPLE THEY WANT TO PROTECT.
AND THAT'S WHY THEY CAN CREATE THEIR KEKKAI.
SUBARU, TOO...

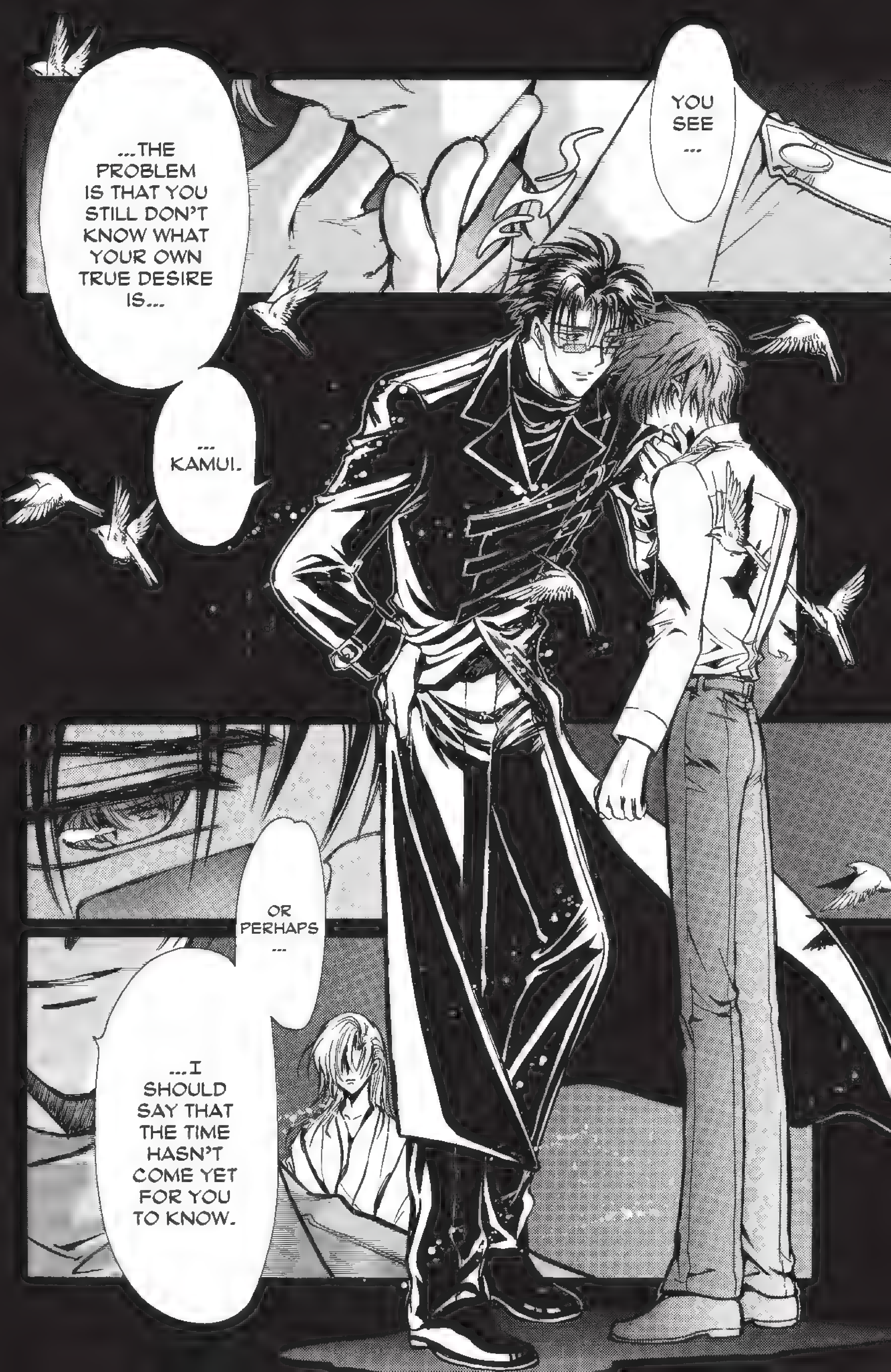

HE'S SO KIND.
CLNCH
HIS TWIN SISTER'S DEATH TORE HIM APART.
IT MAY BE THAT HE'S TOO KIND. HE'S SUFFERED SO MUCH BECAUSE OF IT.
HE NEVER ALLOWED HIMSELF TO EVEN TRY TO HEAL FROM THE HEARTBREAK OF LOSING HER.

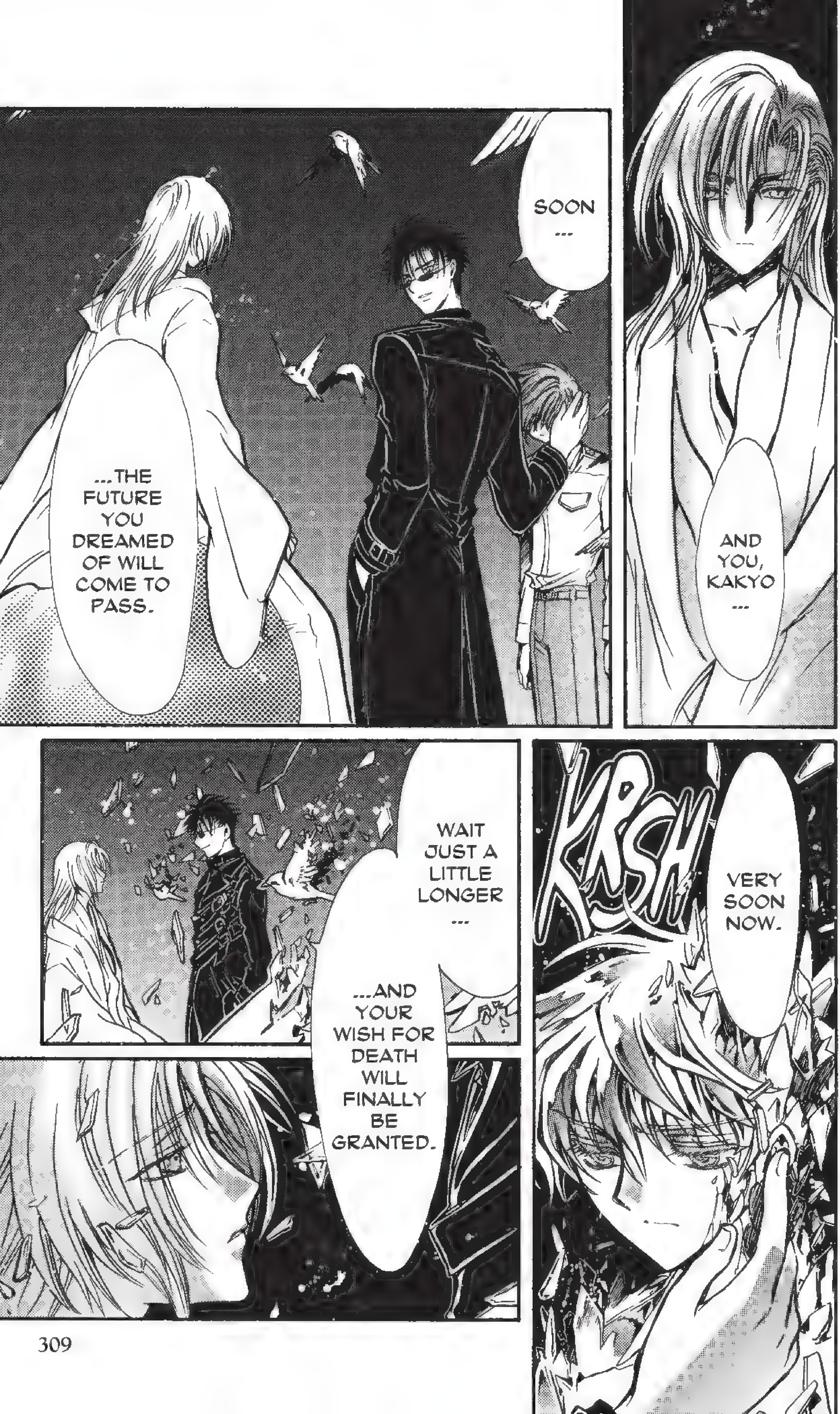

BUT EVEN AFTER LOSING SOMEONE HE LOVED THAT MUCH, HE COULD STILL RAISE A KEKKAI.
I THINK IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE SAKURAZUKAMORI.
AS LONG AS HE WAS STILL ALIVE, SUBARU WANTED TO PROTECT THE WORLD HE LIVED IN.

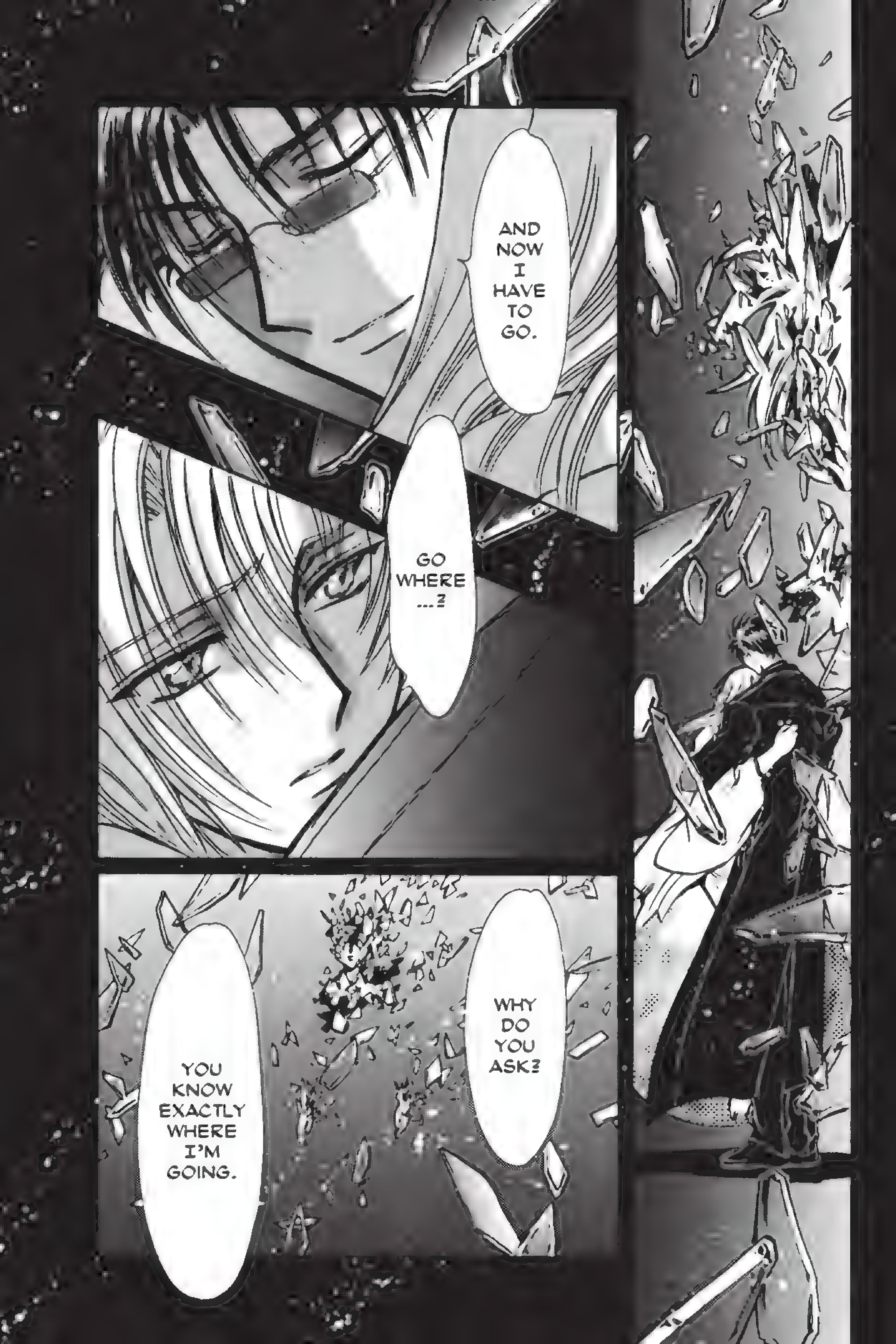

BUT ONCE THE SAKURA-ZUKAMORI WAS GONE...
There is no path you can take that will make everyone...
...happy.
SUBARU ...

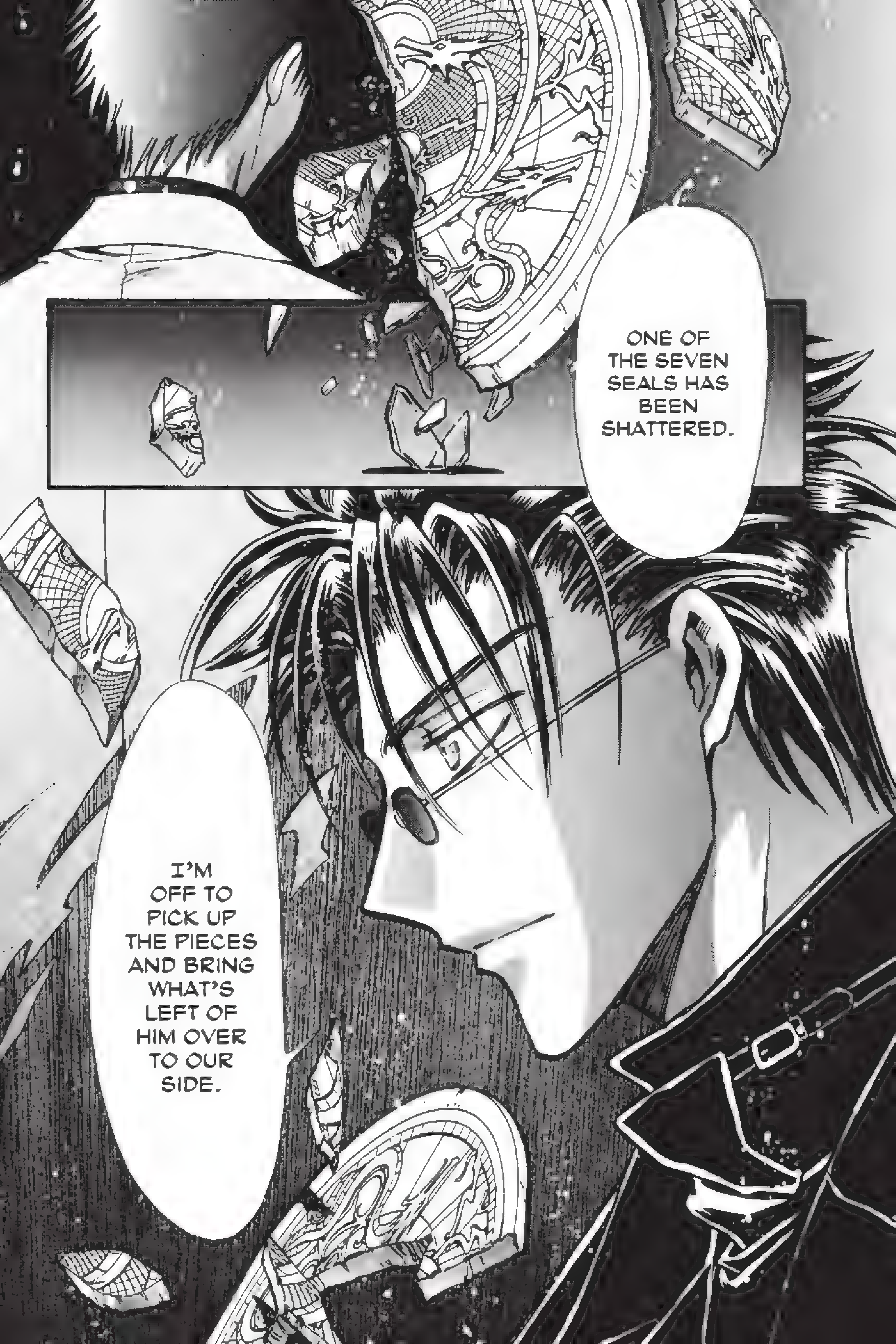

WHERE HAVE YOU GONE?
I WANT TO GO FIND YOU...
...BUT I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF YOU WANT ME TO LOOK.
IS THERE ANYTHING LEFT IN THE WORLD THAT YOU WANT TO PROTECT?

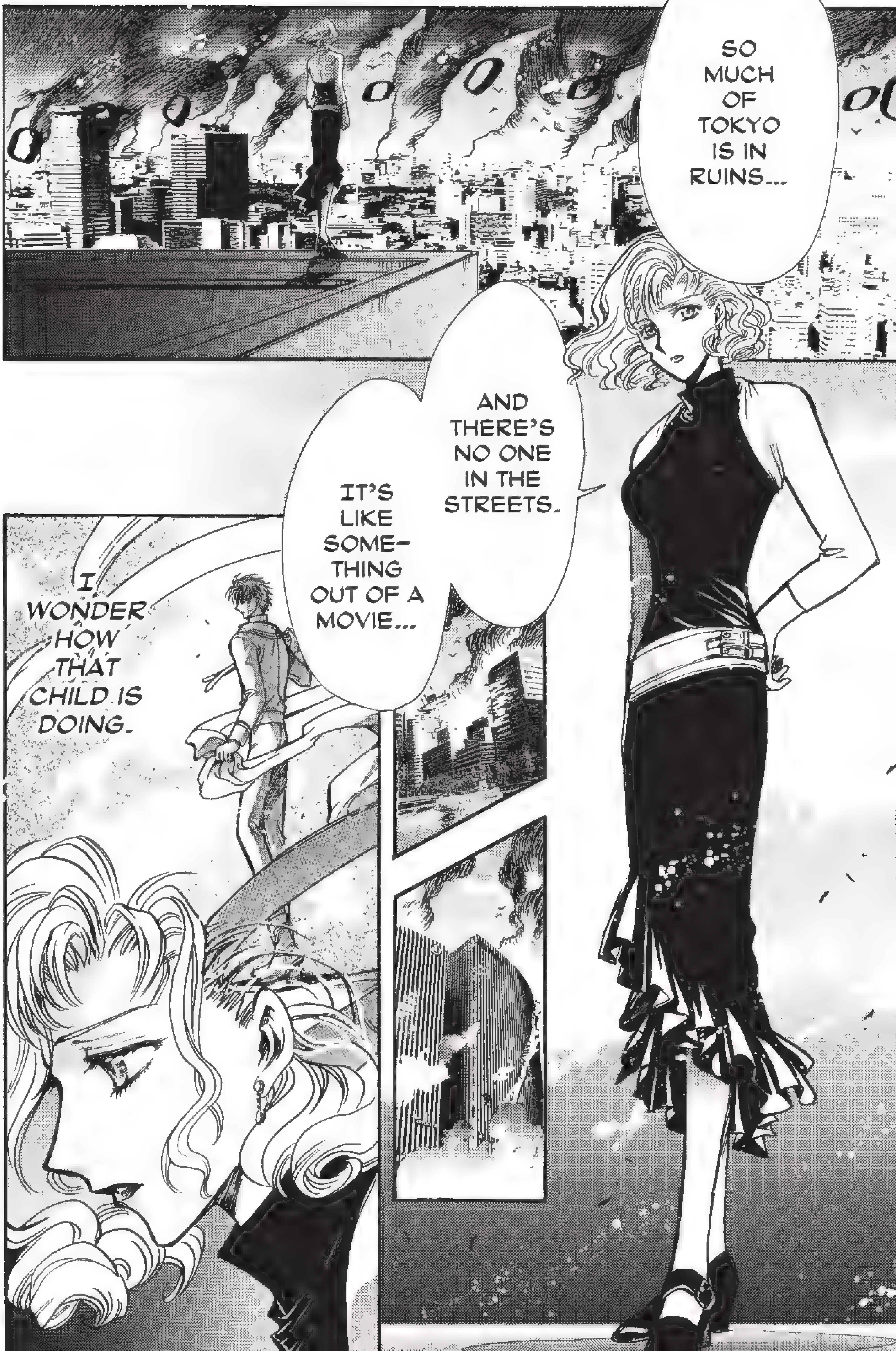

FLAP FLAP
THE PEOPLE I MOST WANTED TO PROTECT...
FLAP
...WERE KOTORI AND FUMA.
BUT KOTORI IS GONE.
AND NOW ALL I WANT IS TO GET FUMA BACK.
BUT...
...I STILL CAN'T CREATE A KEKKAI.

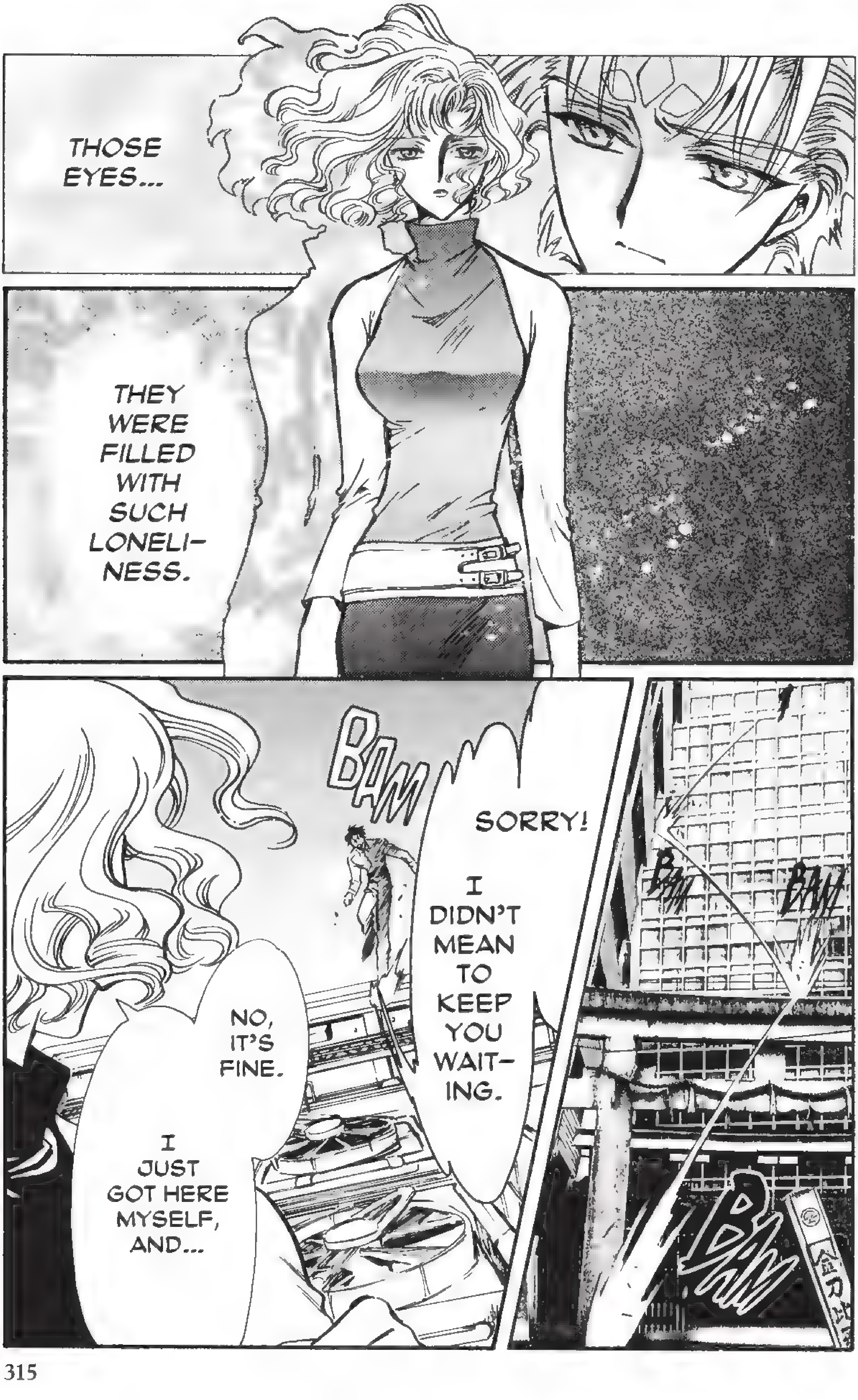

YOU SEE ...
...THE PROBLEM IS THAT YOU STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR OWN TRUE DESIRE IS...
... KAMUI.
OR PERHAPS ...
...I SHOULD SAY THAT THE TIME HASN'T COME YET FOR YOU TO KNOW.

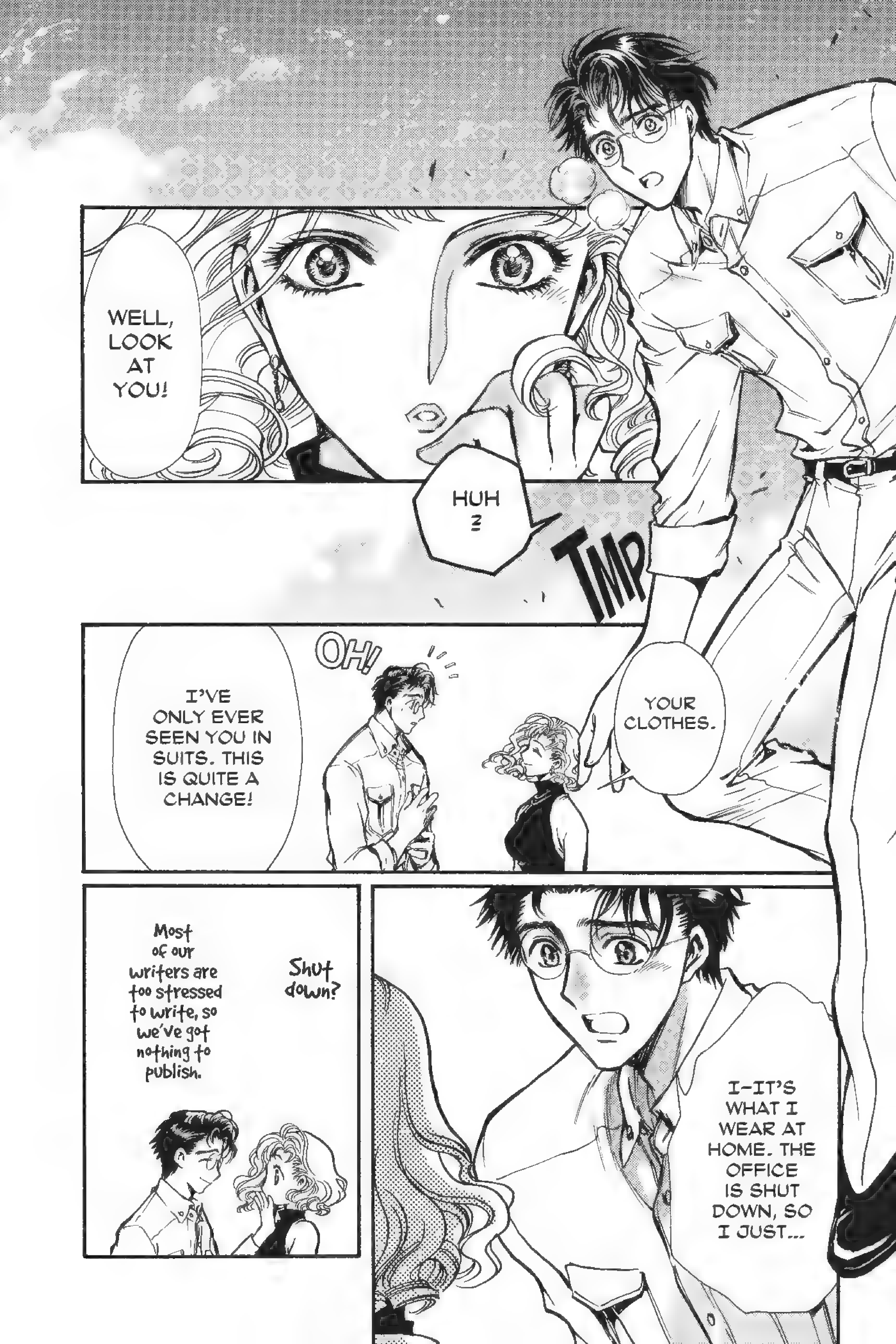

SOON ...
...THE FUTURE YOU DREAMED OF WILL COME TO PASS.
AND YOU, KAKYO ...
WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER ...
...AND YOUR WISH FOR DEATH WILL FINALLY BE GRANTED.
KRSH
VERY SOON NOW.

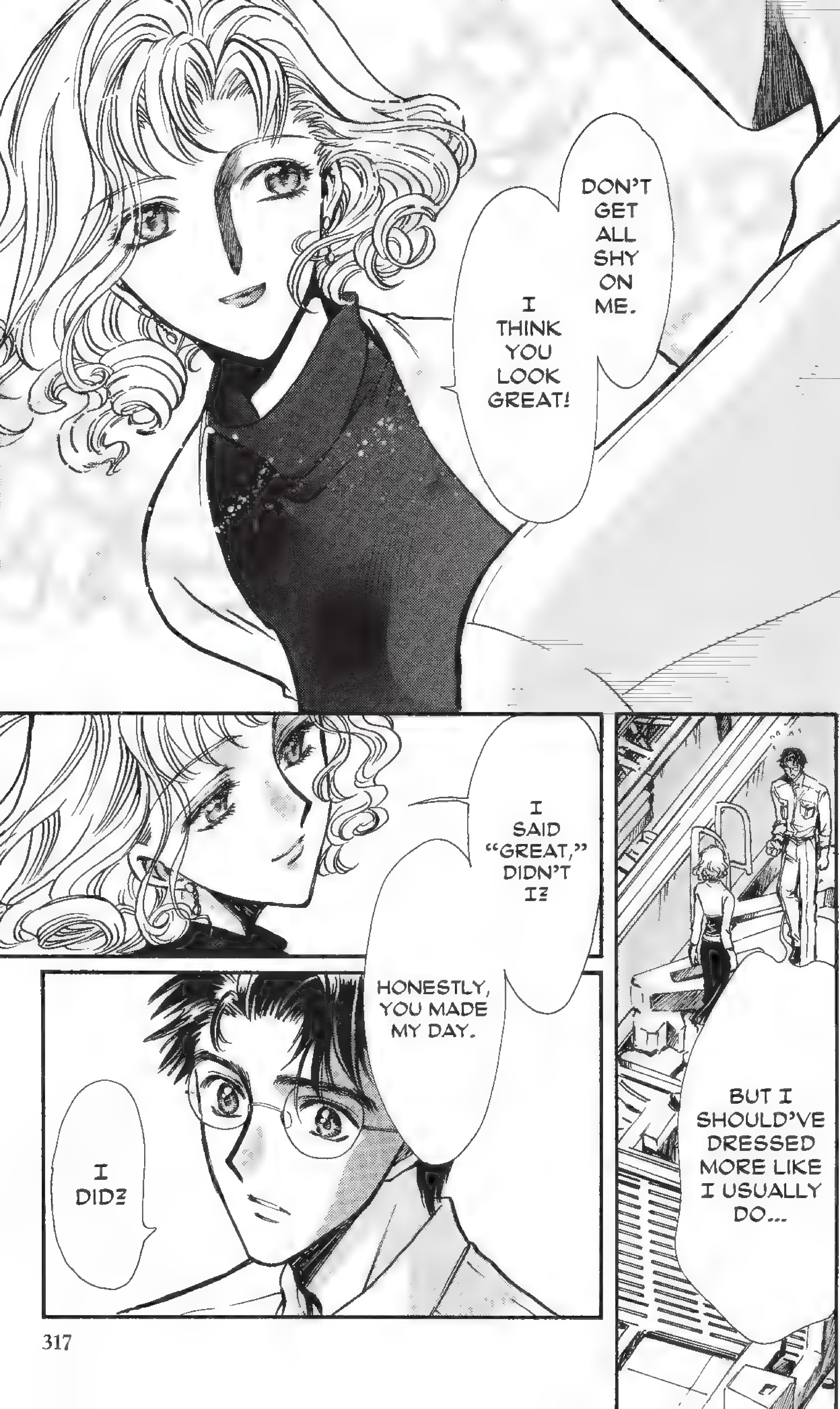

AND NOW I HAVE TO GO.
GO WHERE ...?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE I'M GOING.

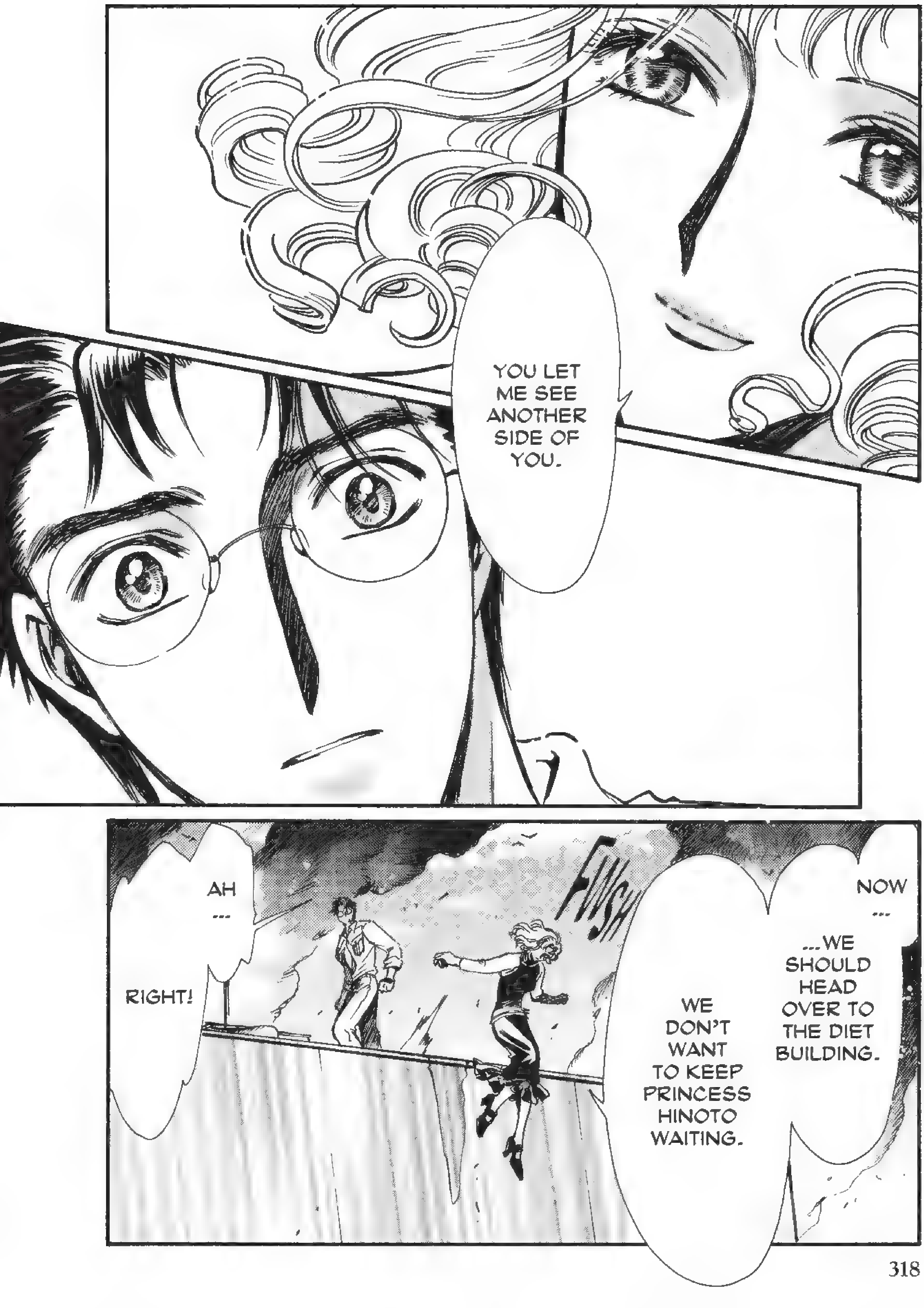

ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS HAS BEEN SHATTERED.
I'M OFF TO PICK UP THE PIECES AND BRING WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM OVER TO OUR SIDE.

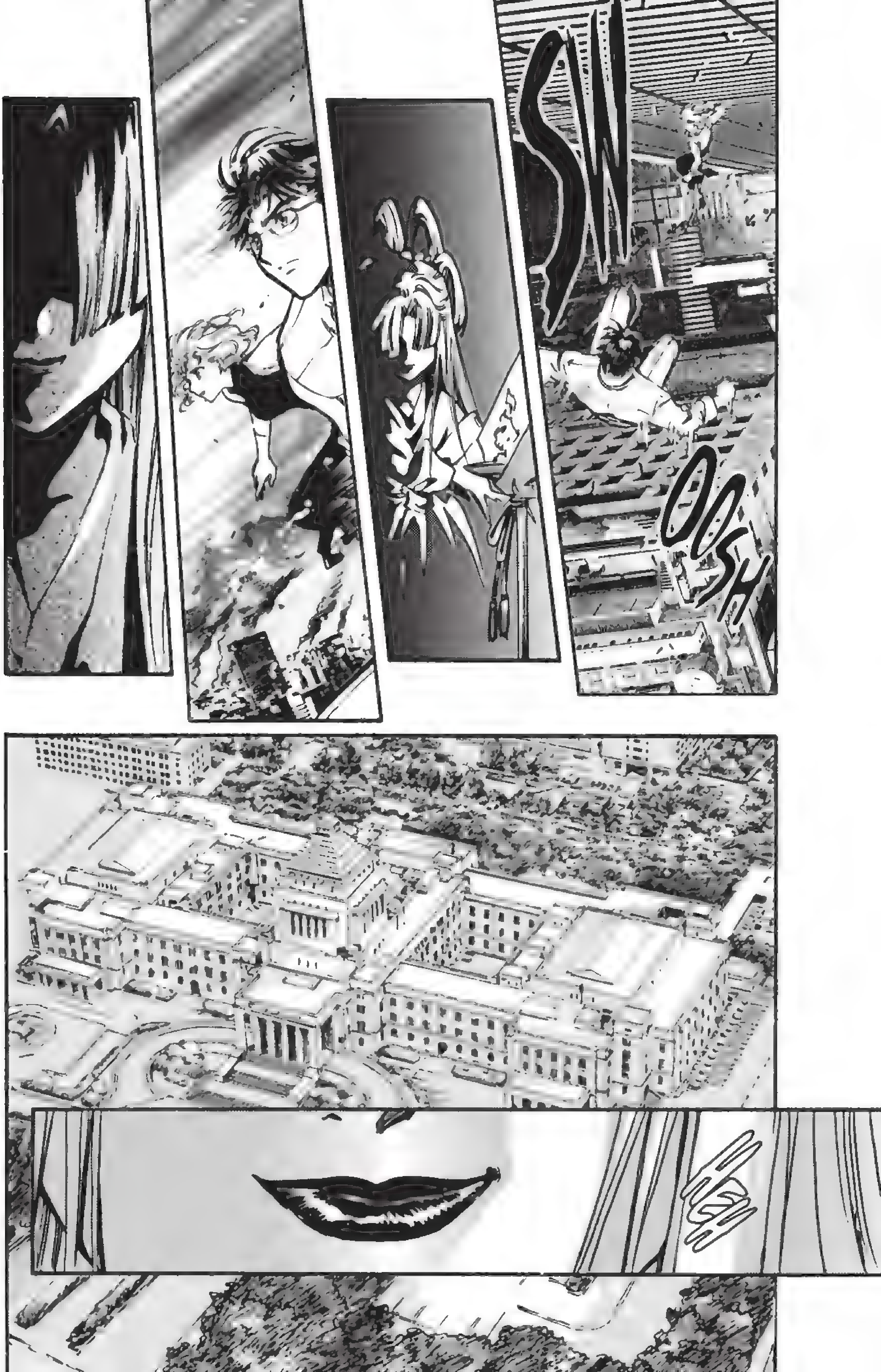

SO MUCH OF TOKYO IS IN RUINS...
AND THERE'S NO ONE IN THE STREETS.
IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A MOVIE...
I WONDER HOW THAT CHILD IS DOING.

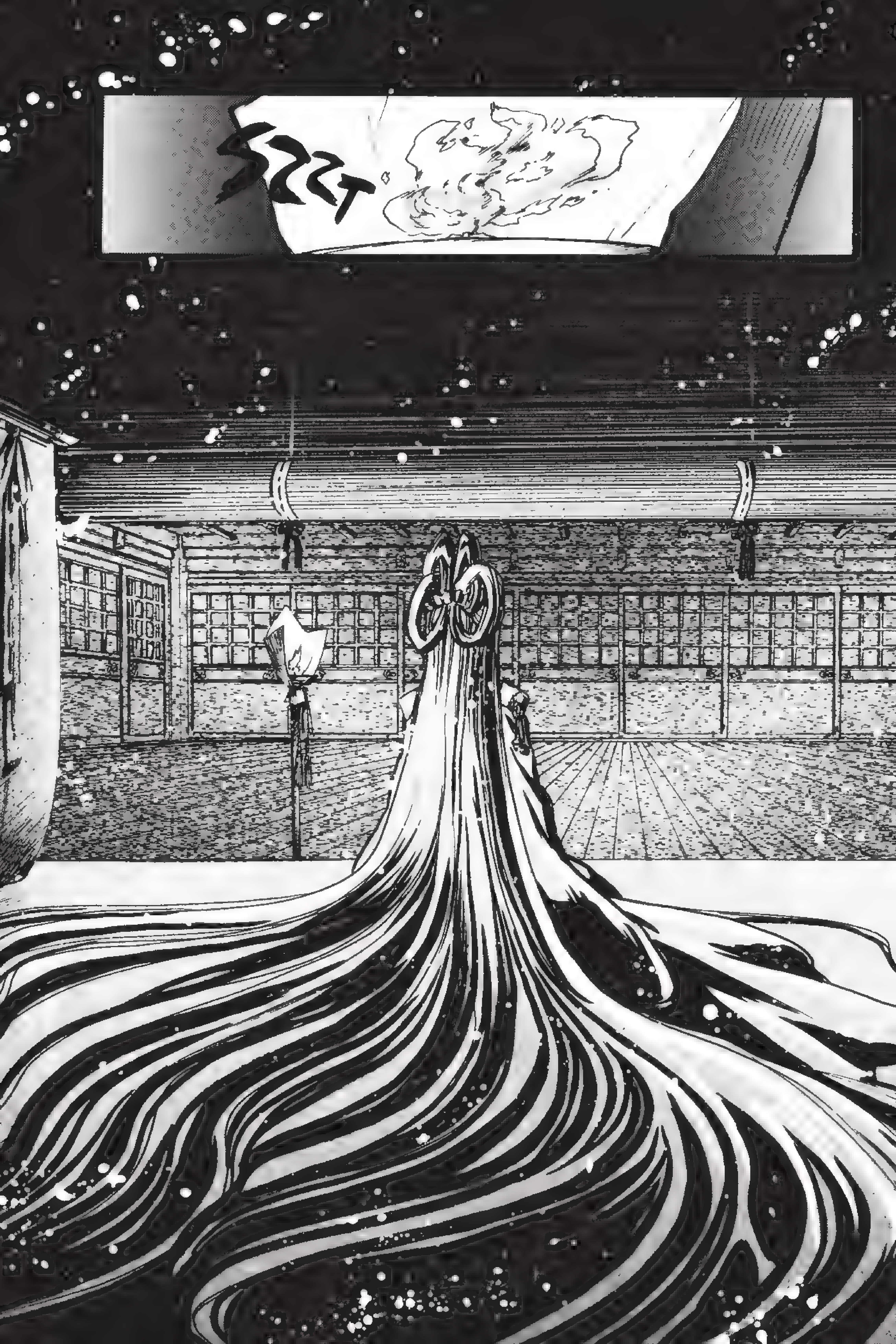

THOSE EYES...
THEY WERE FILLED WITH SUCH LONELINESS.
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
SORRY!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
NO, IT'S FINE.
I JUST GOT HERE MYSELF, AND...

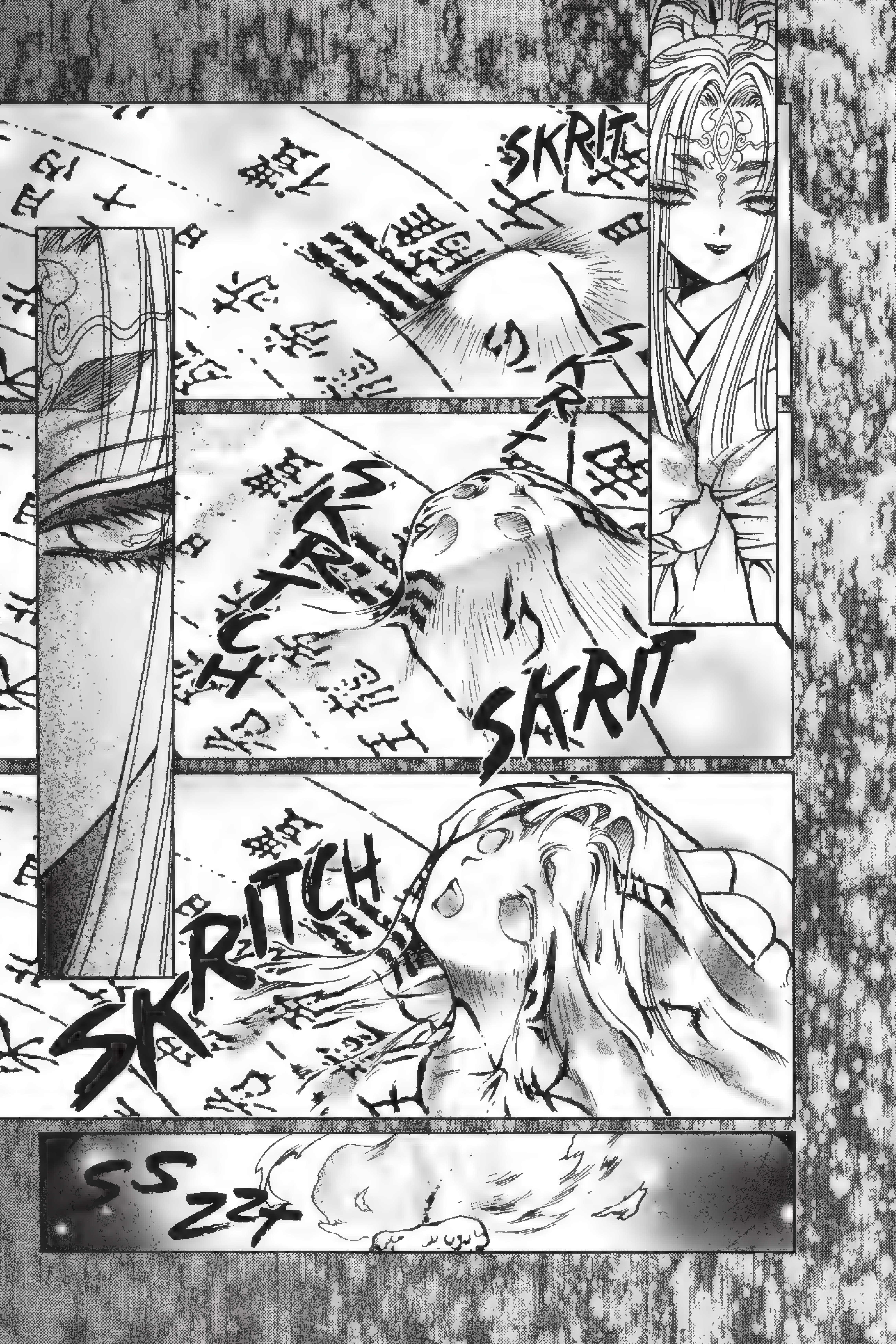

WELL, LOOK AT YOU!
HUH?
TMP
YOUR CLOTHES.
OH!
I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN YOU IN SUITS. THIS IS QUITE A CHANGE!
I-IT'S WHAT I WEAR AT HOME. THE OFFICE IS SHUT DOWN, SO I JUST...
Shut down?
Most of our writers are too stressed to write, so we've got nothing to publish.

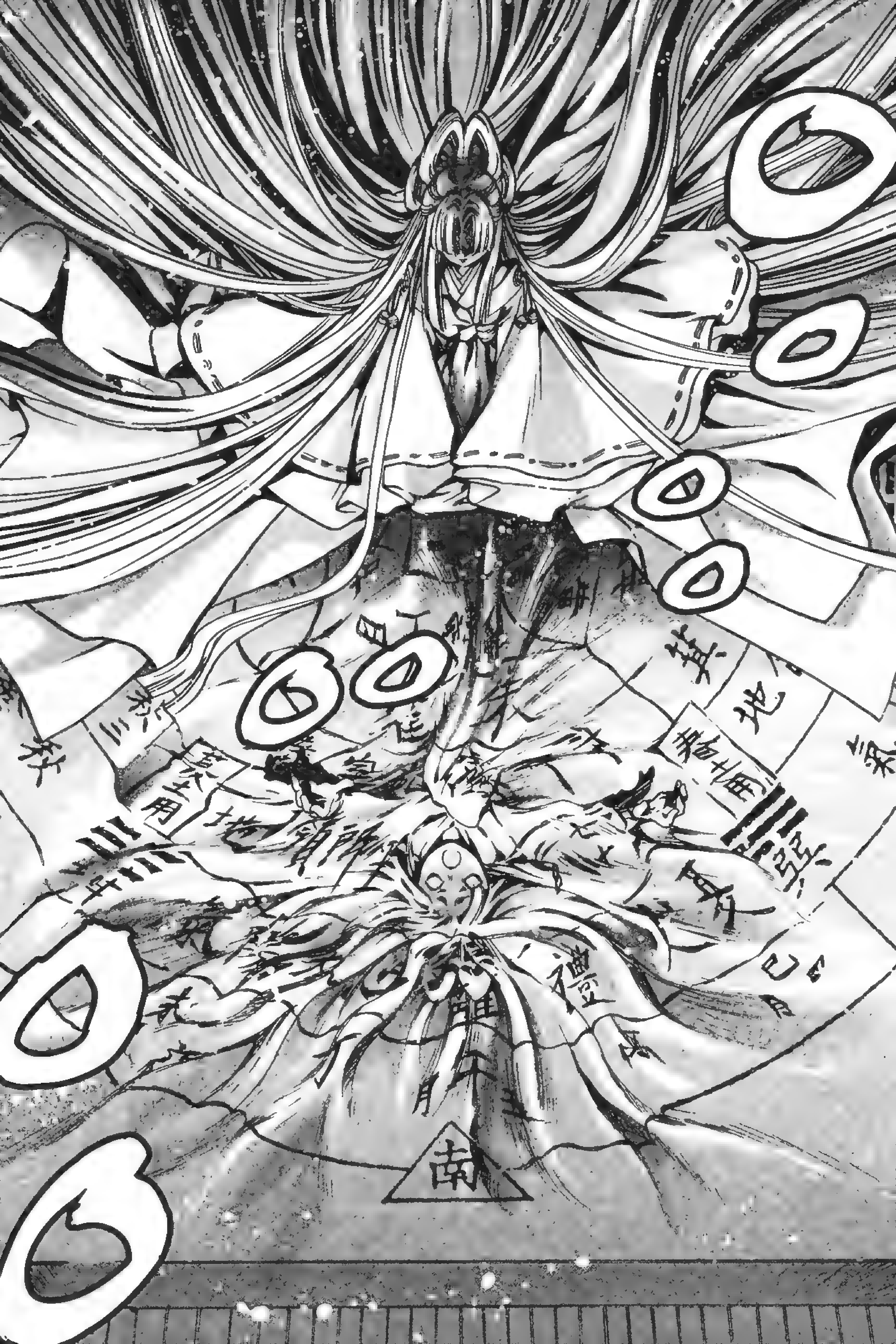

DON'T GET ALL SHY ON ME.
I THINK YOU LOOK GREAT!
BUT I SHOULD'VE DRESSED MORE LIKE I USUALLY DO...
I SAID "GREAT," DIDN'T I?
HONESTLY, YOU MADE MY DAY.
I DID?

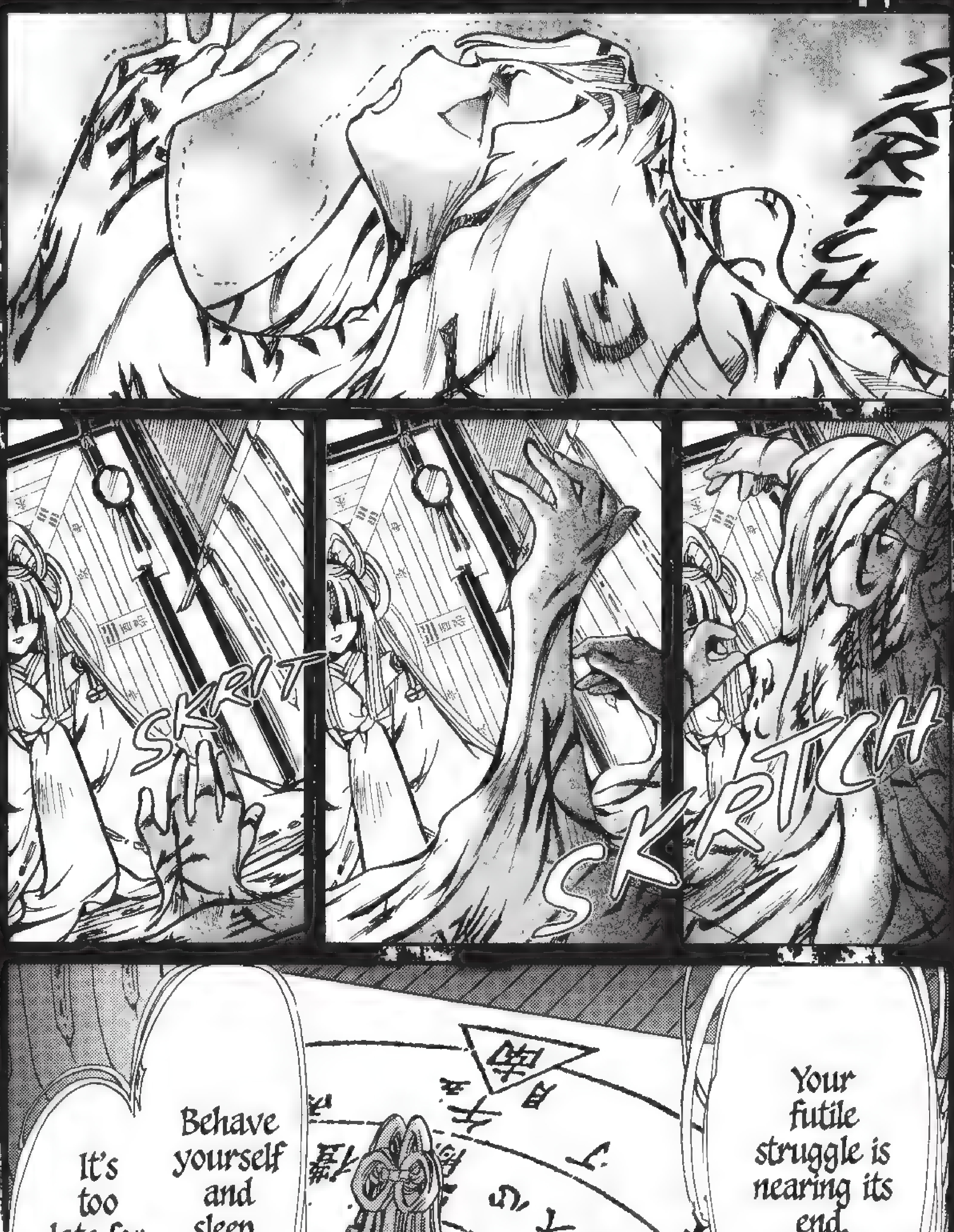

YOU LET ME SEE ANOTHER SIDE OF YOU.
NOW... ...WE SHOULD HEAD OVER TO THE DIET BUILDING.
WE DON'T WANT TO KEEP PRINCESS HINOTO WAITING.
FWISH
AH... RIGHT!

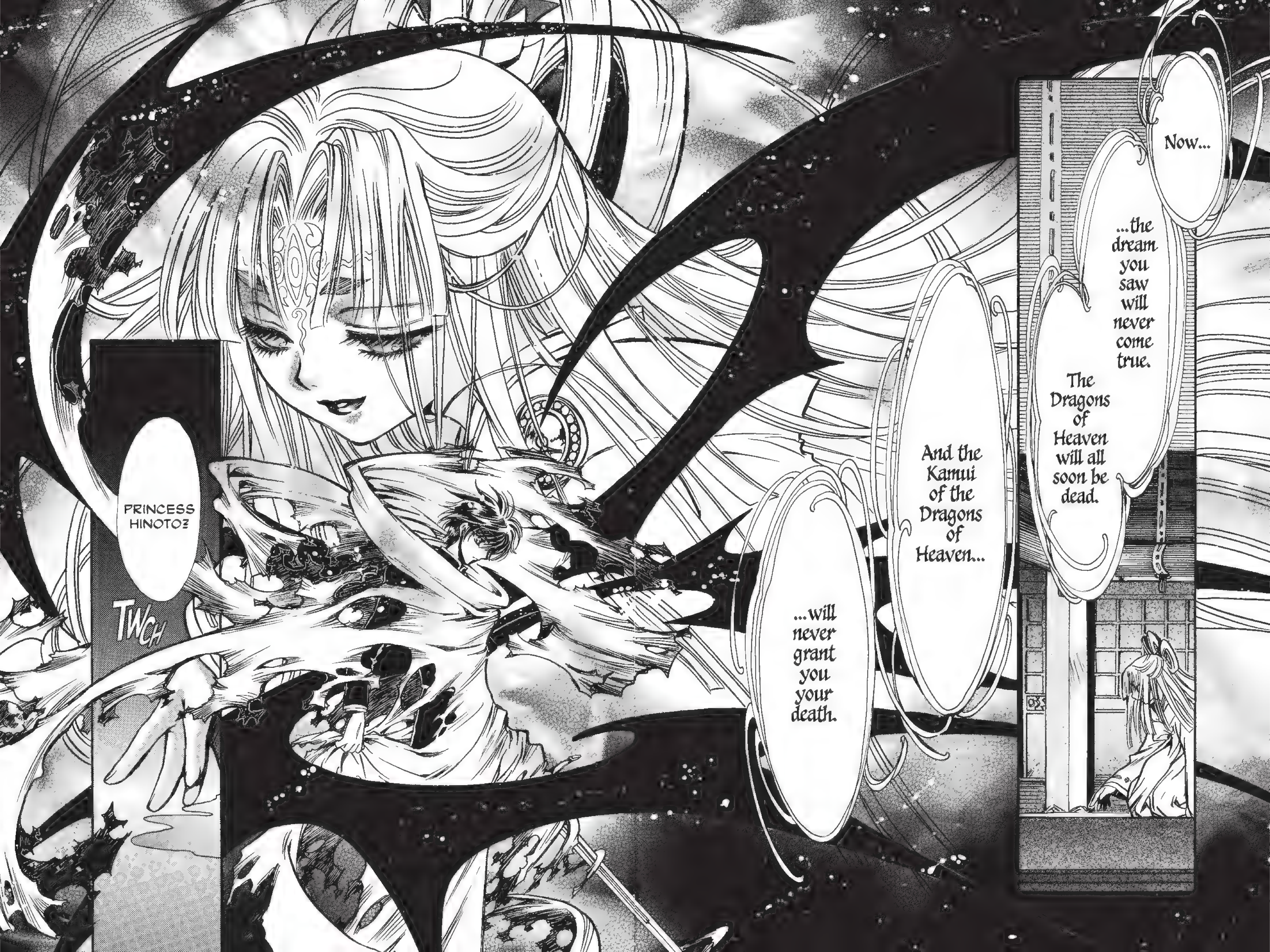

SWOOSH

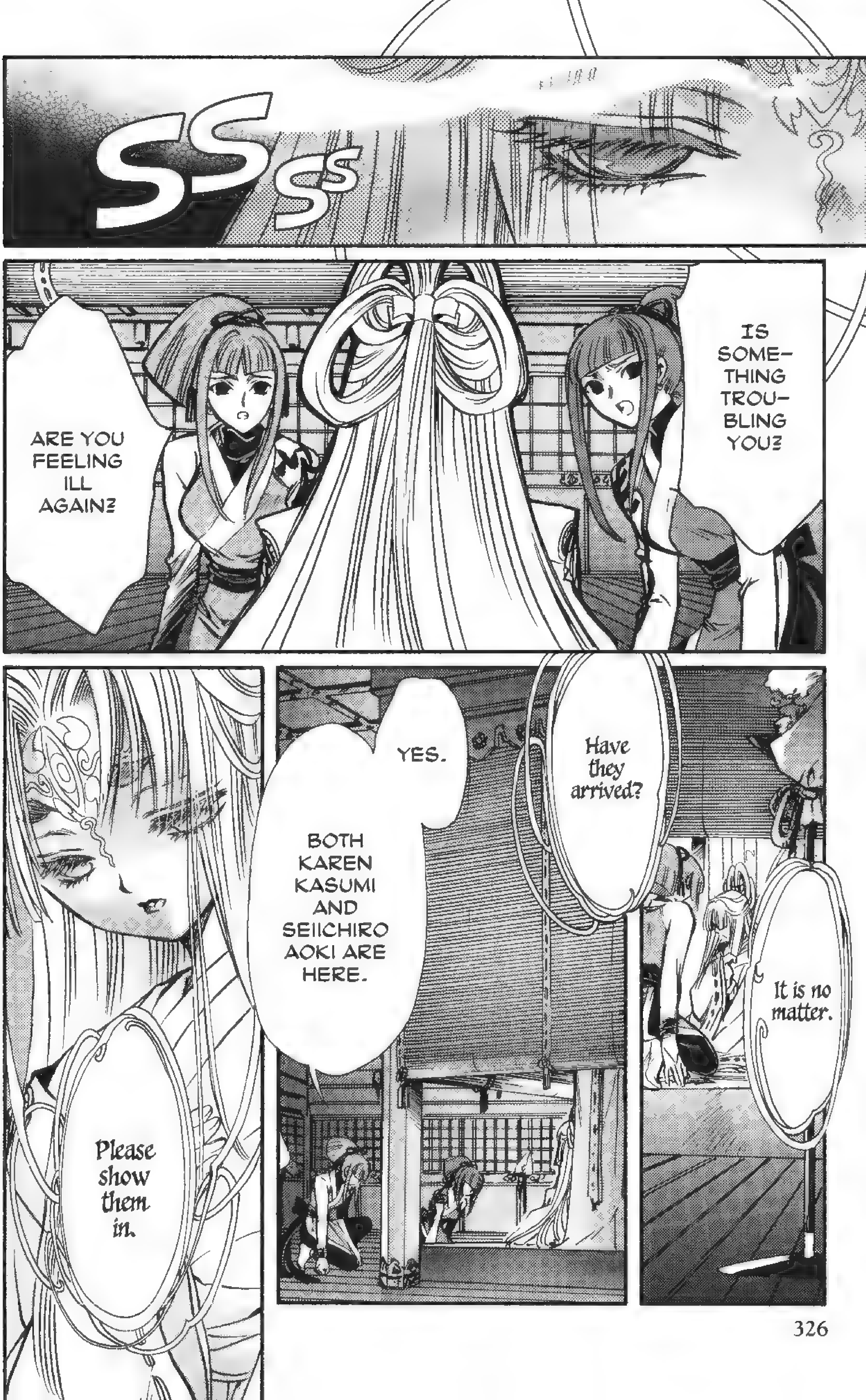

SZZT

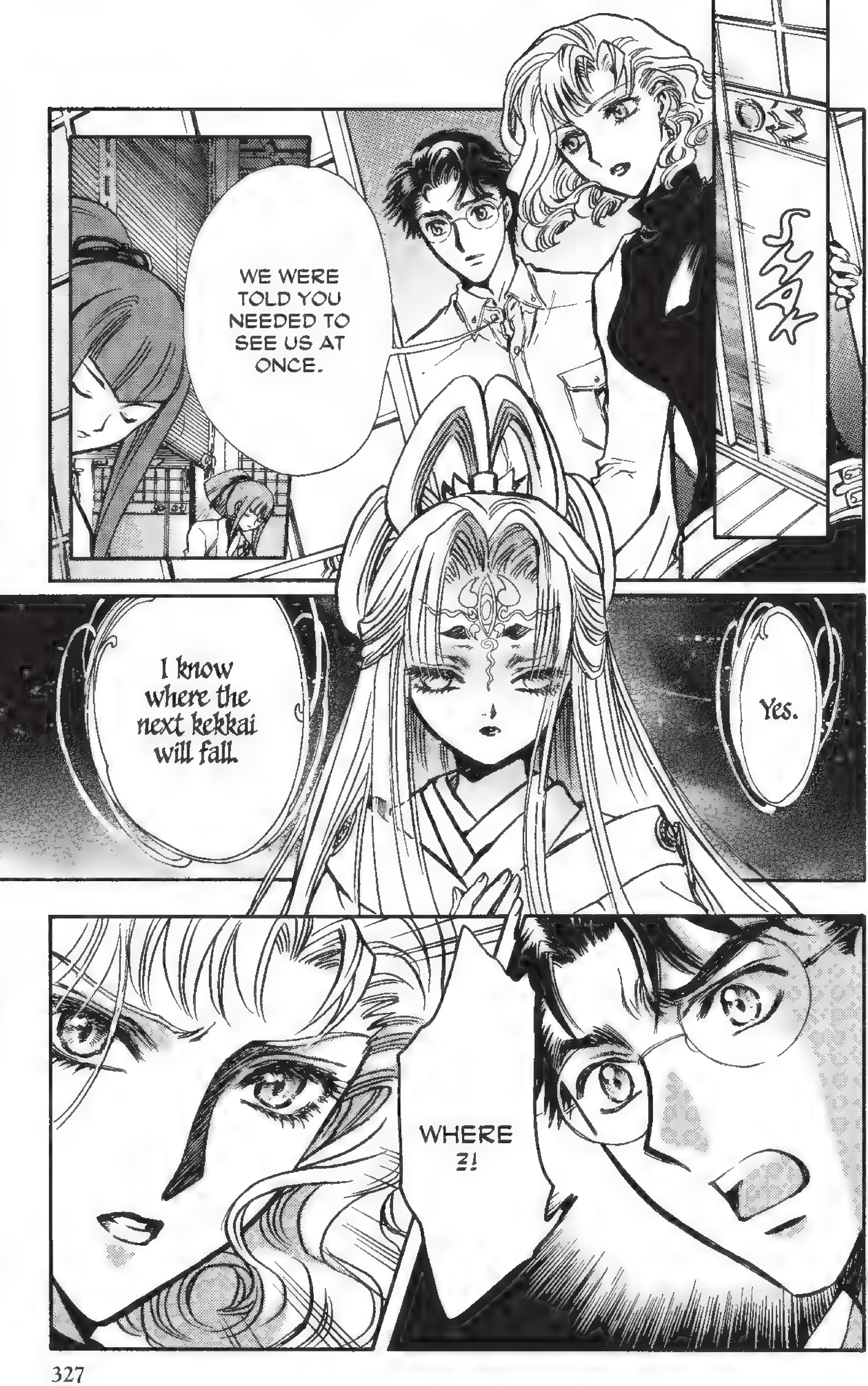

SKRIT
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
SKRIT
SKRITCH
SSZZZ

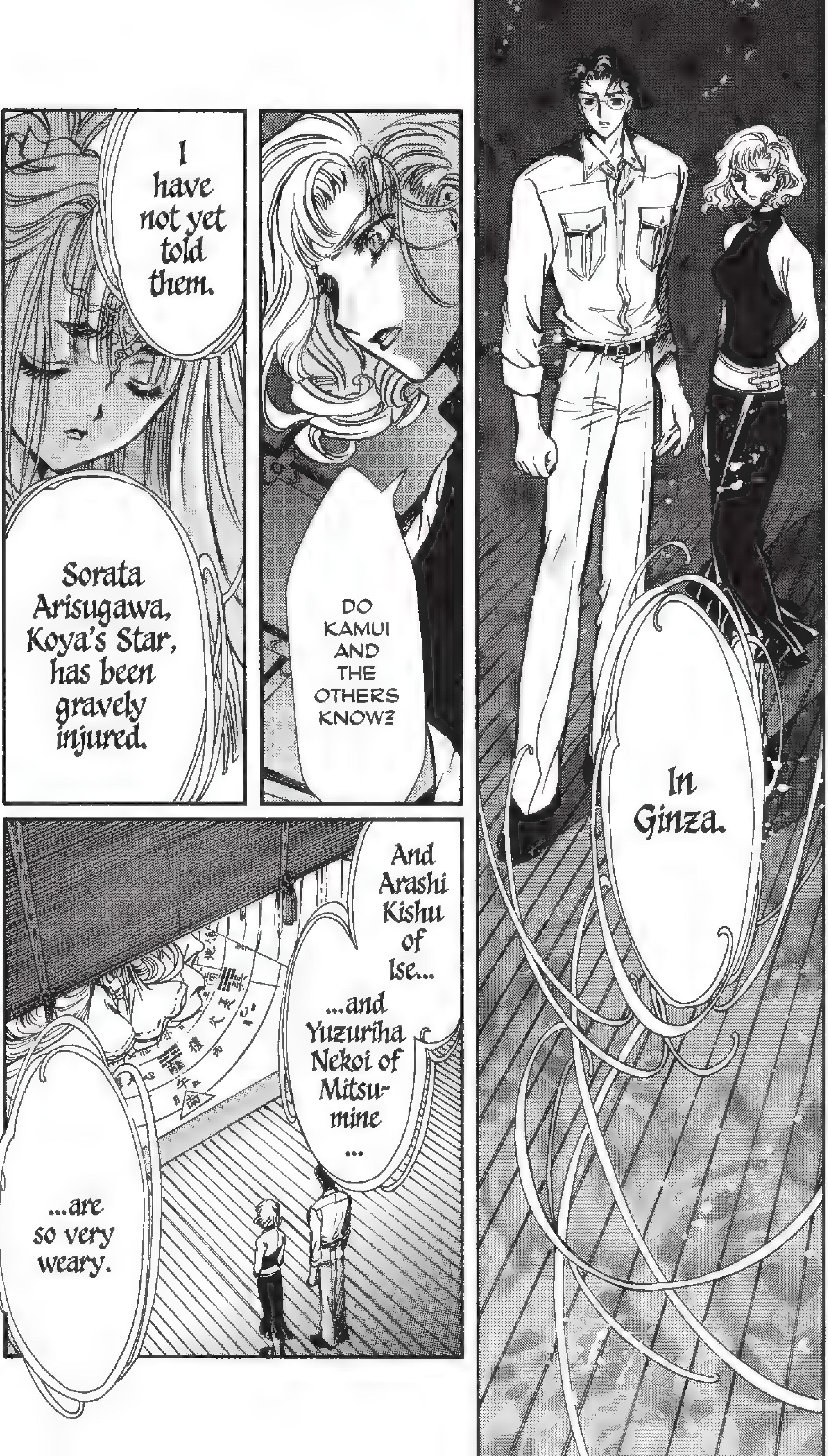

南

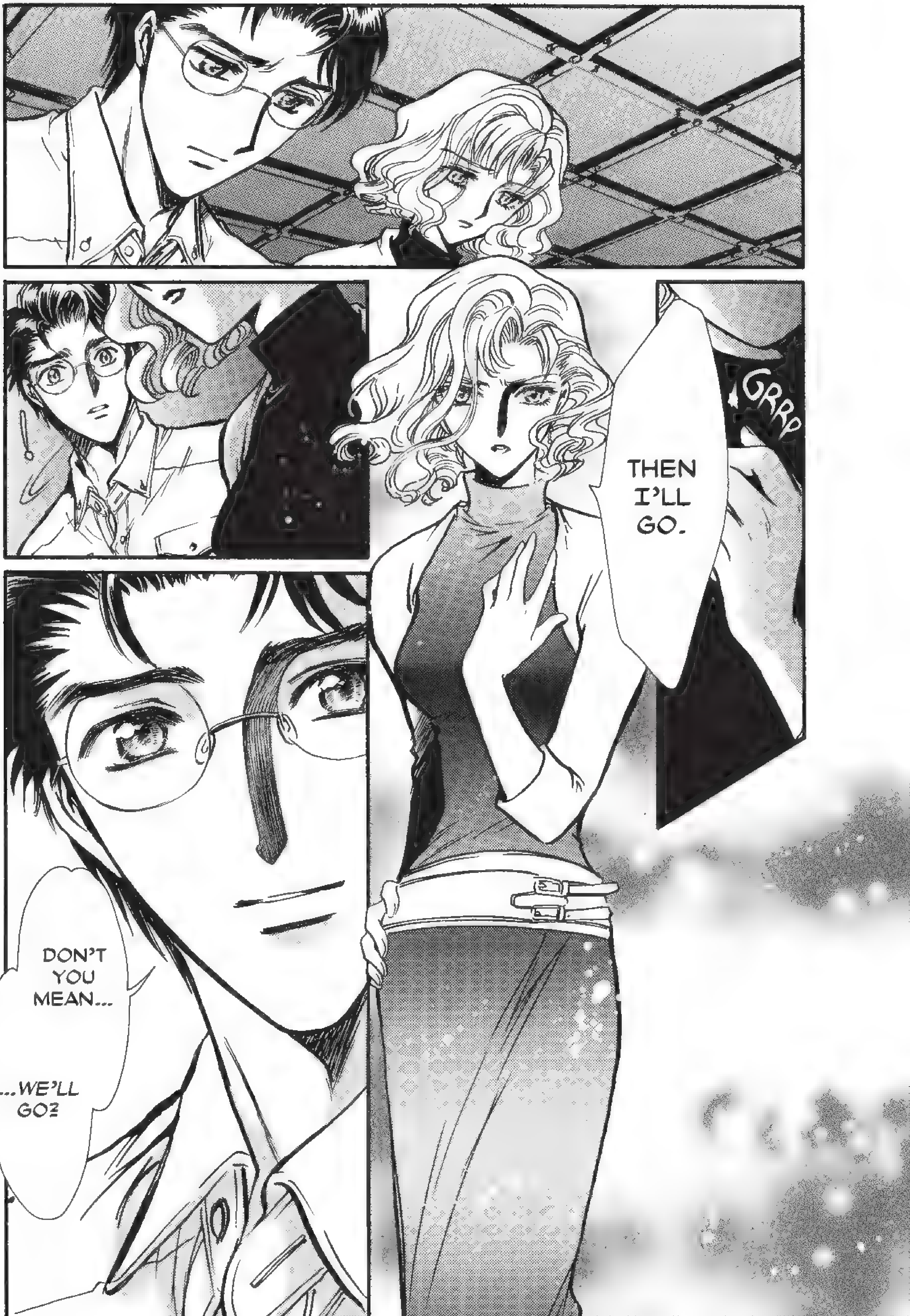

SKRITCH
SKRTCH
SKRIT
Your futile struggle is nearing its end.
Behave yourself and sleep.
It's too late for you to reclaim this body.

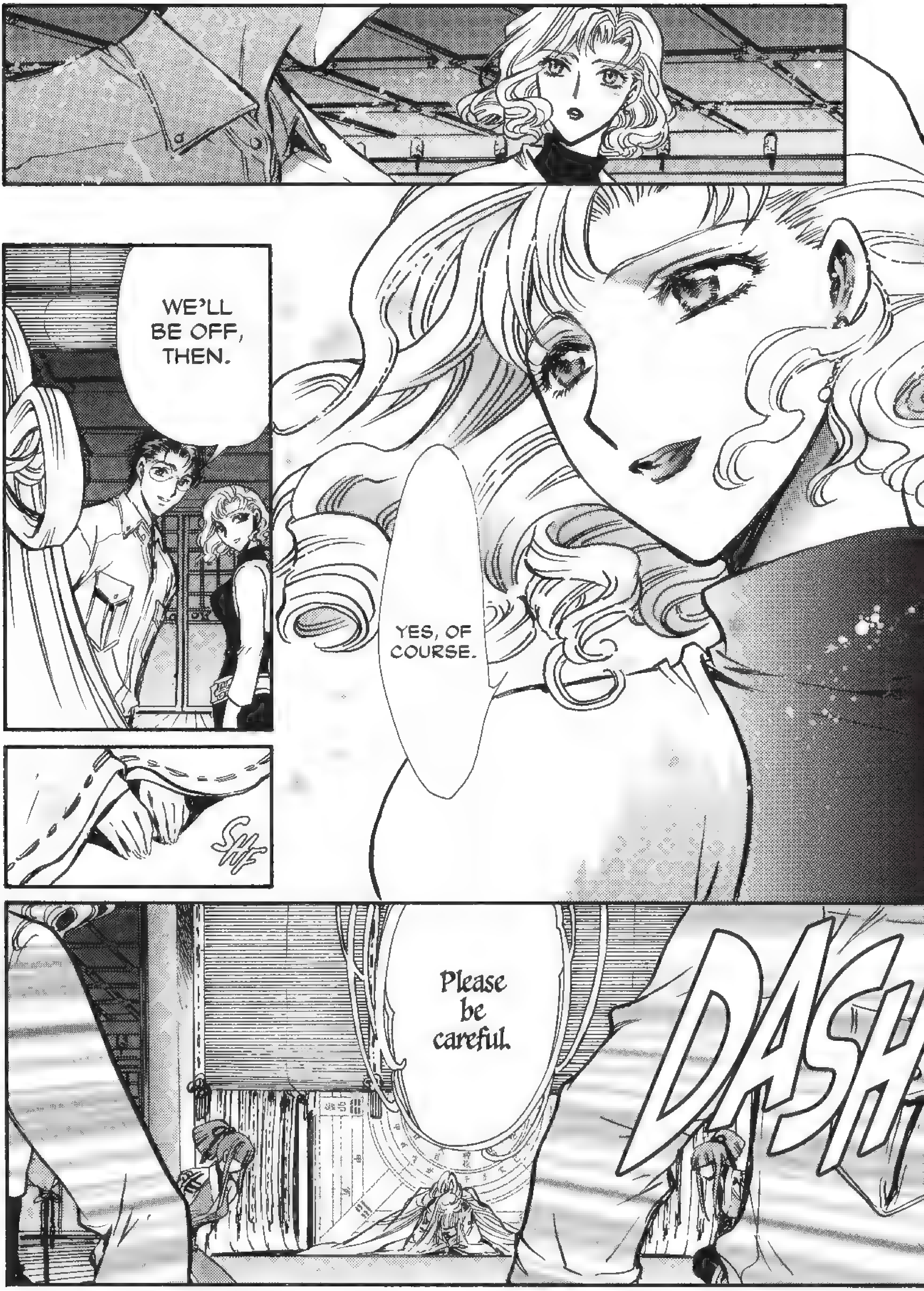

Now...
...the dream you saw will never come true.
The Dragons of Heaven will all soon be dead.
And the Kamui of the Dragons of Heaven...
...will never grant you your death.
PRINCESS HINOTO?!
TWCH

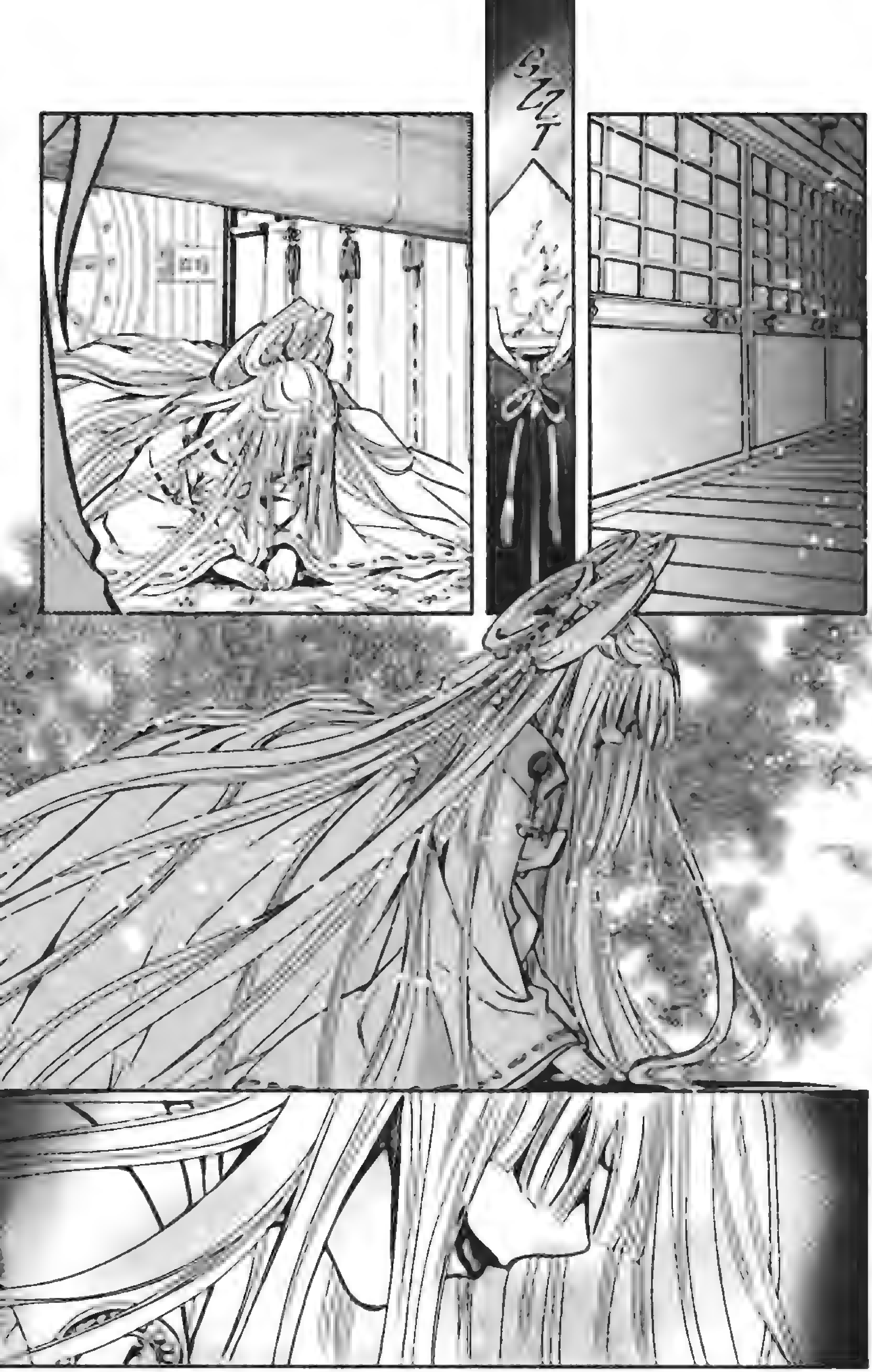

SSsss
IS SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU?
ARE YOU FEELING ILL AGAIN?
It is no matter.
Have they arrived?
YES.
BOTH KAREN KASUMI AND SEIICHIRO AOKI ARE HERE.
Please show them in.

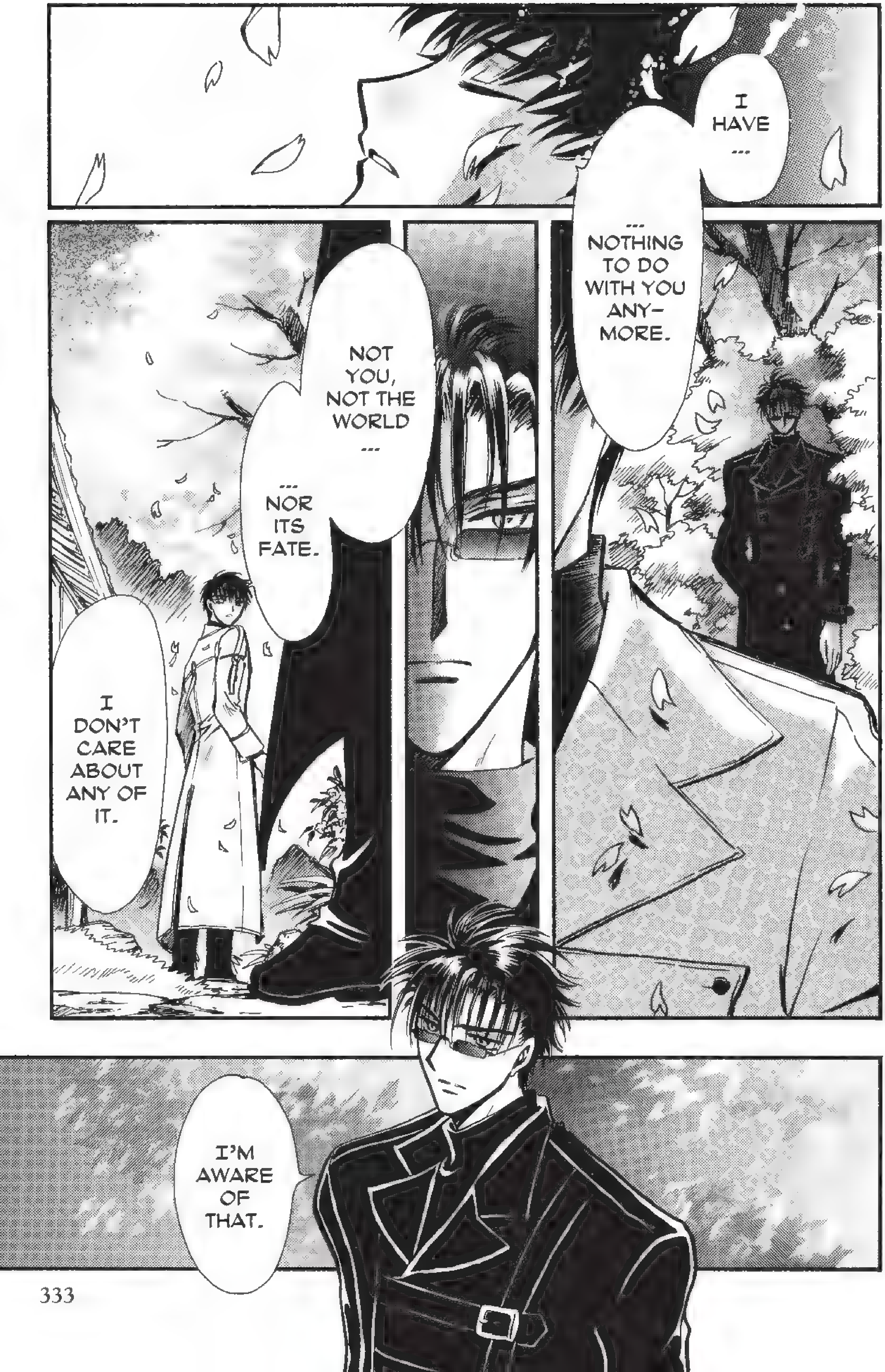

SHAK
WE WERE TOLD YOU NEEDED TO SEE US AT ONCE.
Yes.
I know where the next kekkai will fall.
WHERE ?!

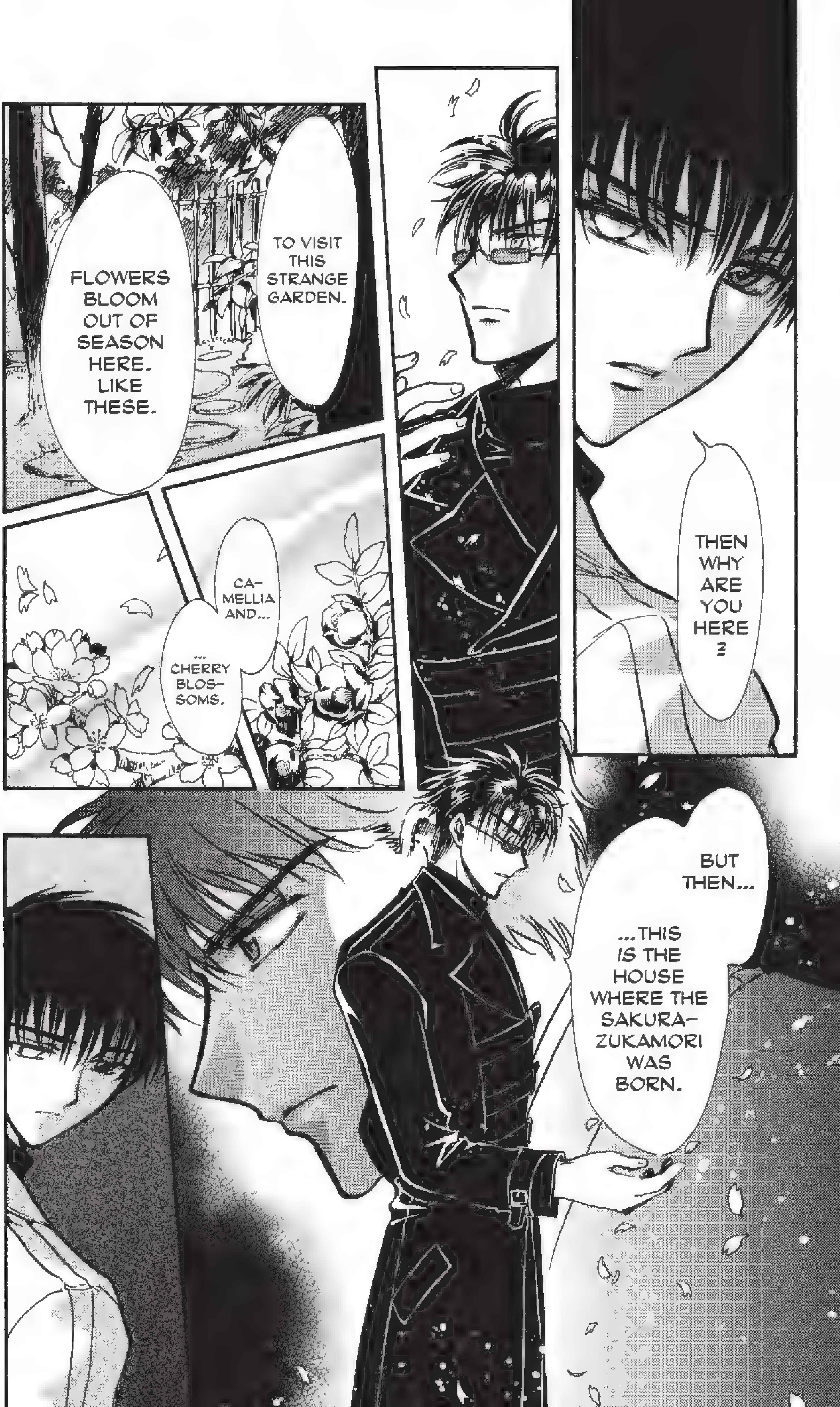

DO KAMUI AND THE OTHERS KNOW?
I have not yet told them.
Sorata Arisugawa, Koya's Star, has been gravely injured.
And Arashi Kishu of Ise...
...and Yuzuriha Nekoi of Mitsumine...
...are so very weary.
In Ginza.

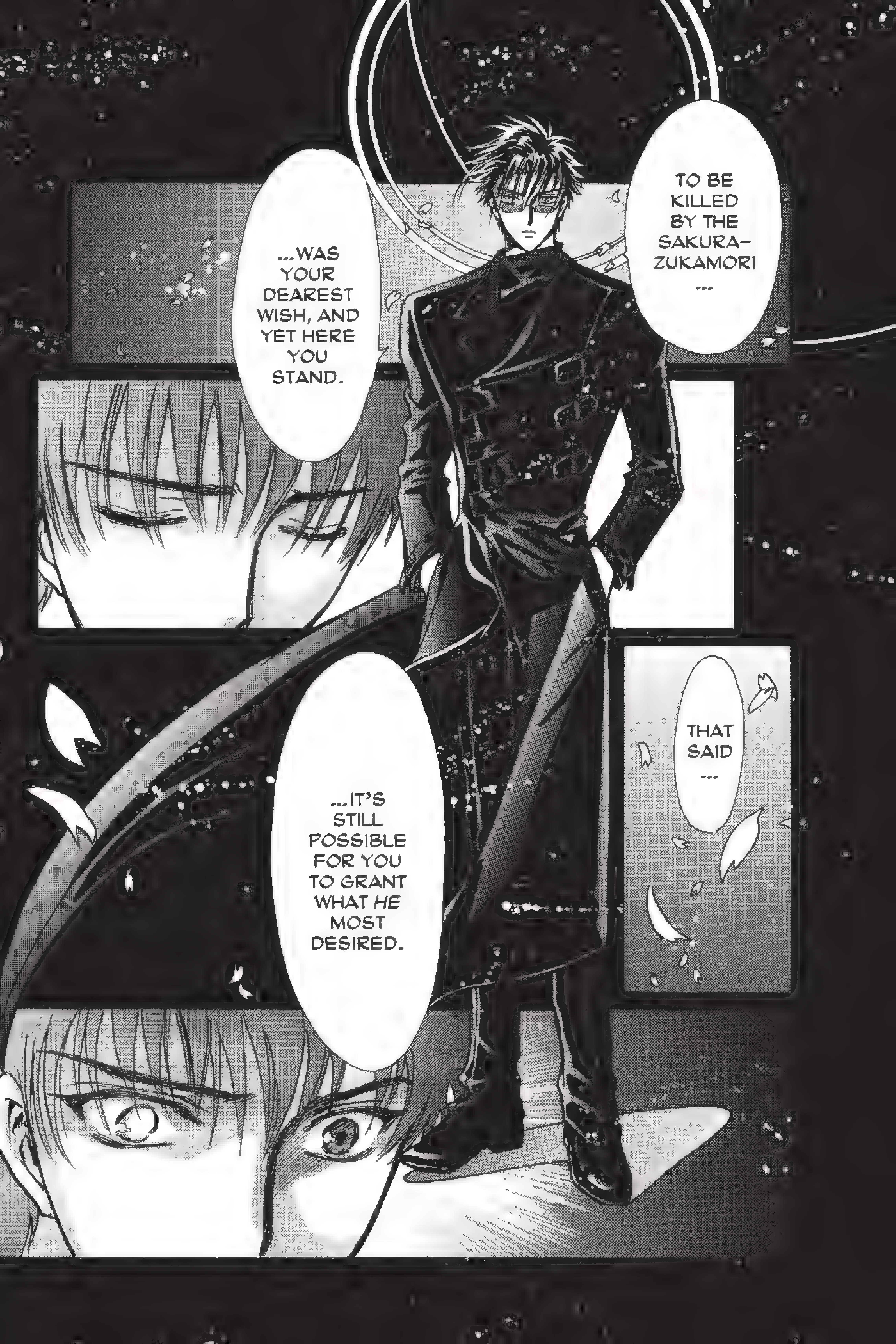

GRRR
THEN I'LL GO.
!
DON'T YOU MEAN...
...WE'LL GO?

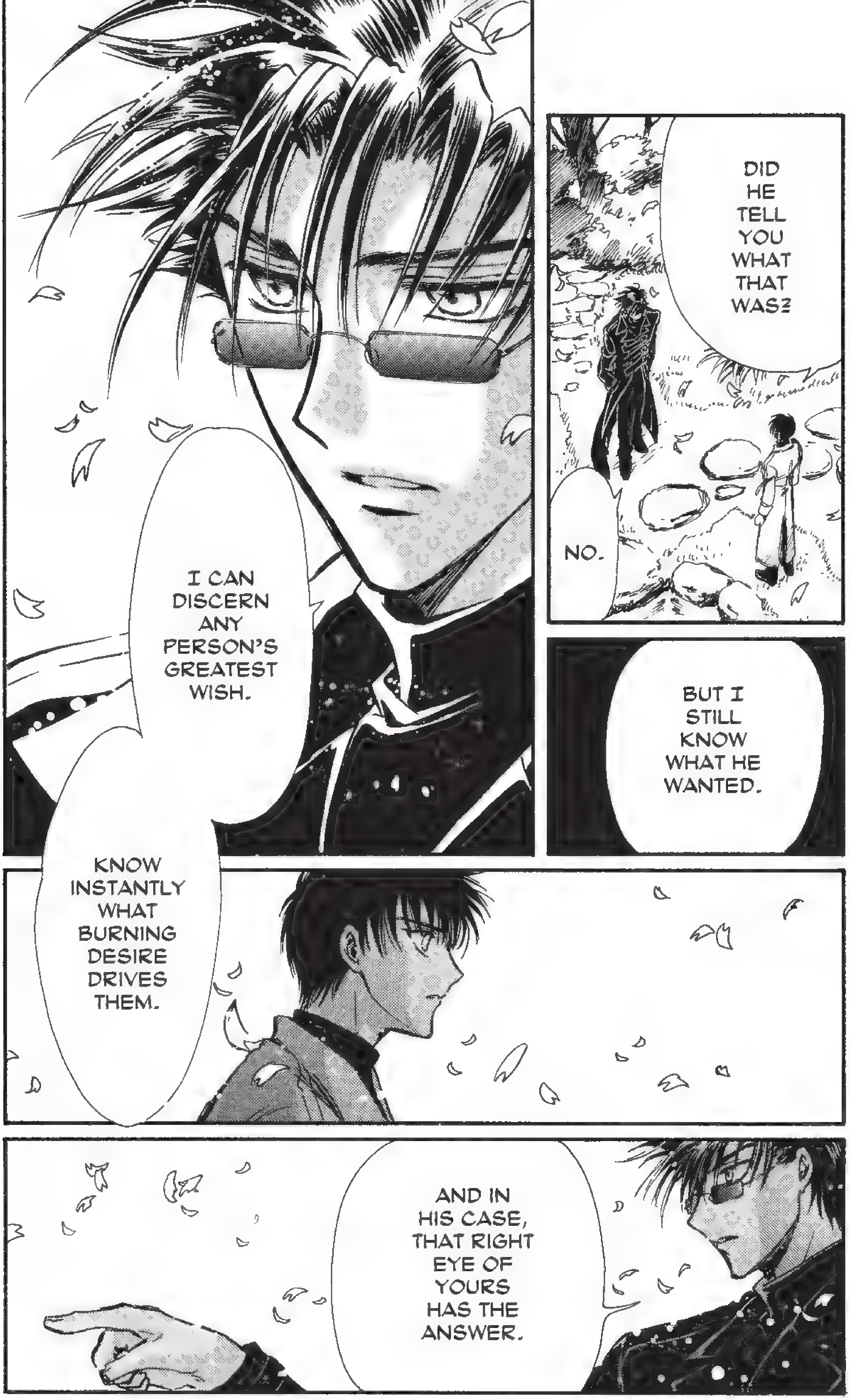

WE'LL BE OFF, THEN.
YES, OF COURSE.
SHF
Please be careful.
DASH

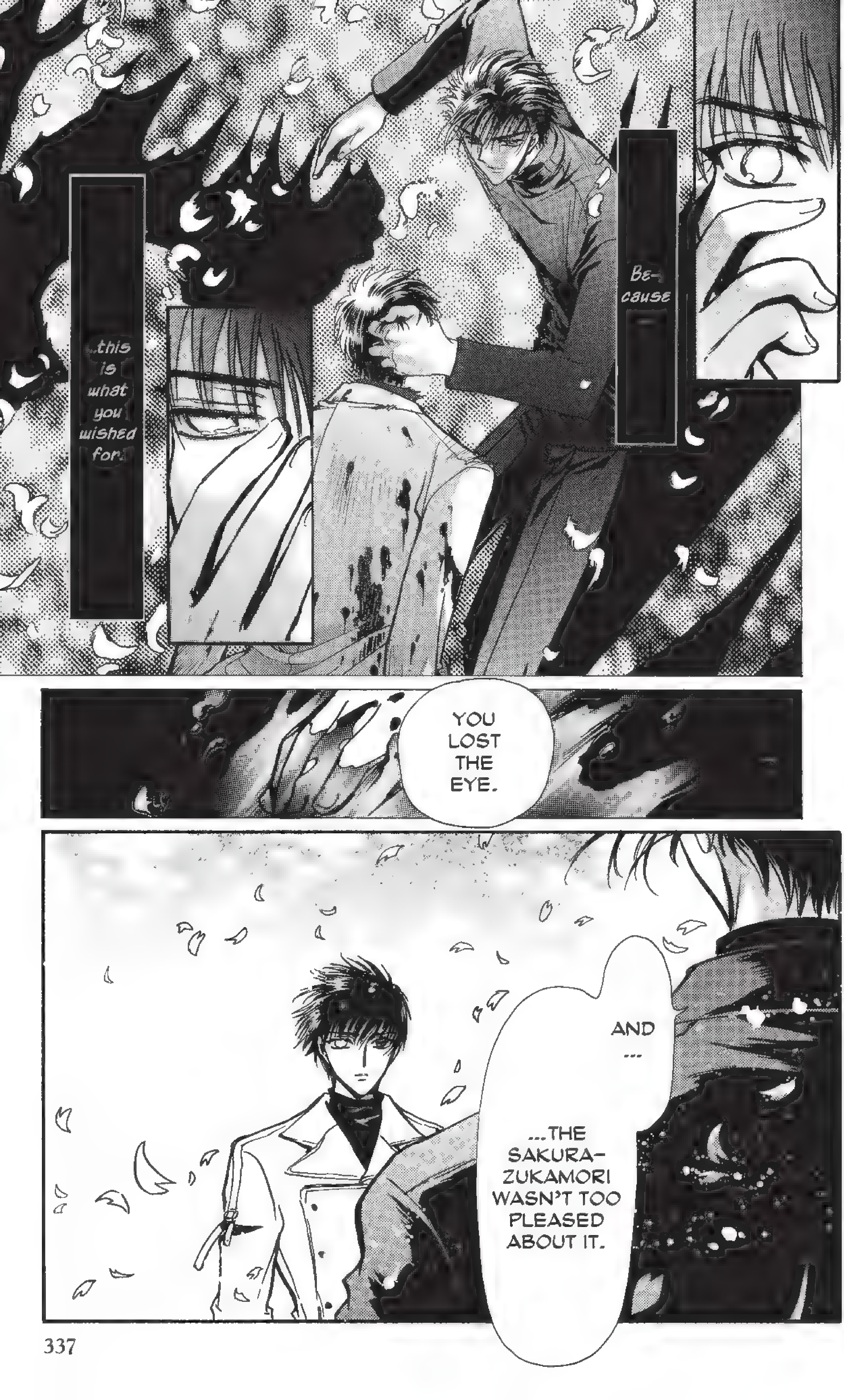

GZZT

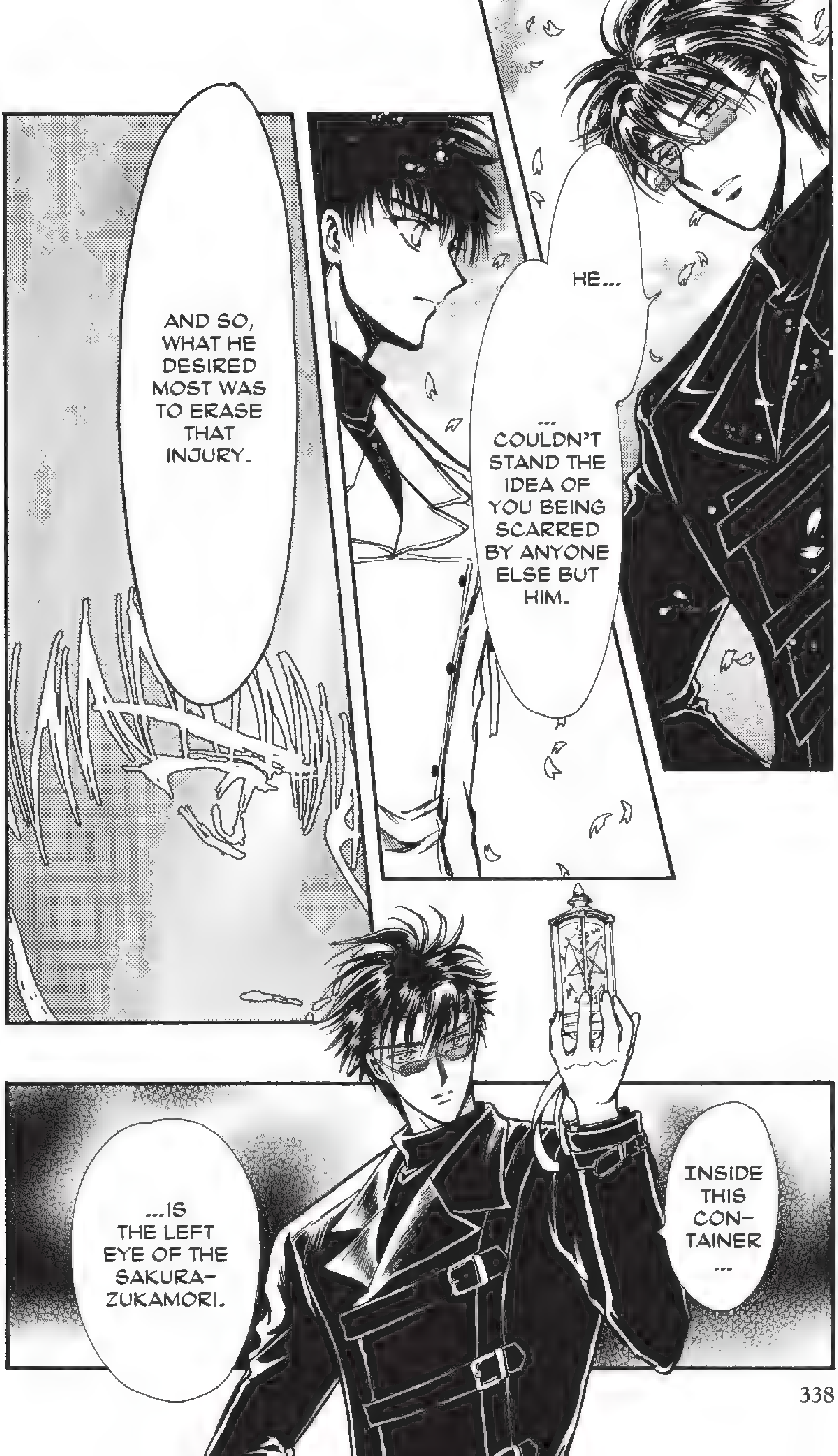

I HAVE ...
... NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYMORE.
NOT YOU, NOT THE WORLD ...
... NOR ITS FATE.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF IT.
I'M AWARE OF THAT.

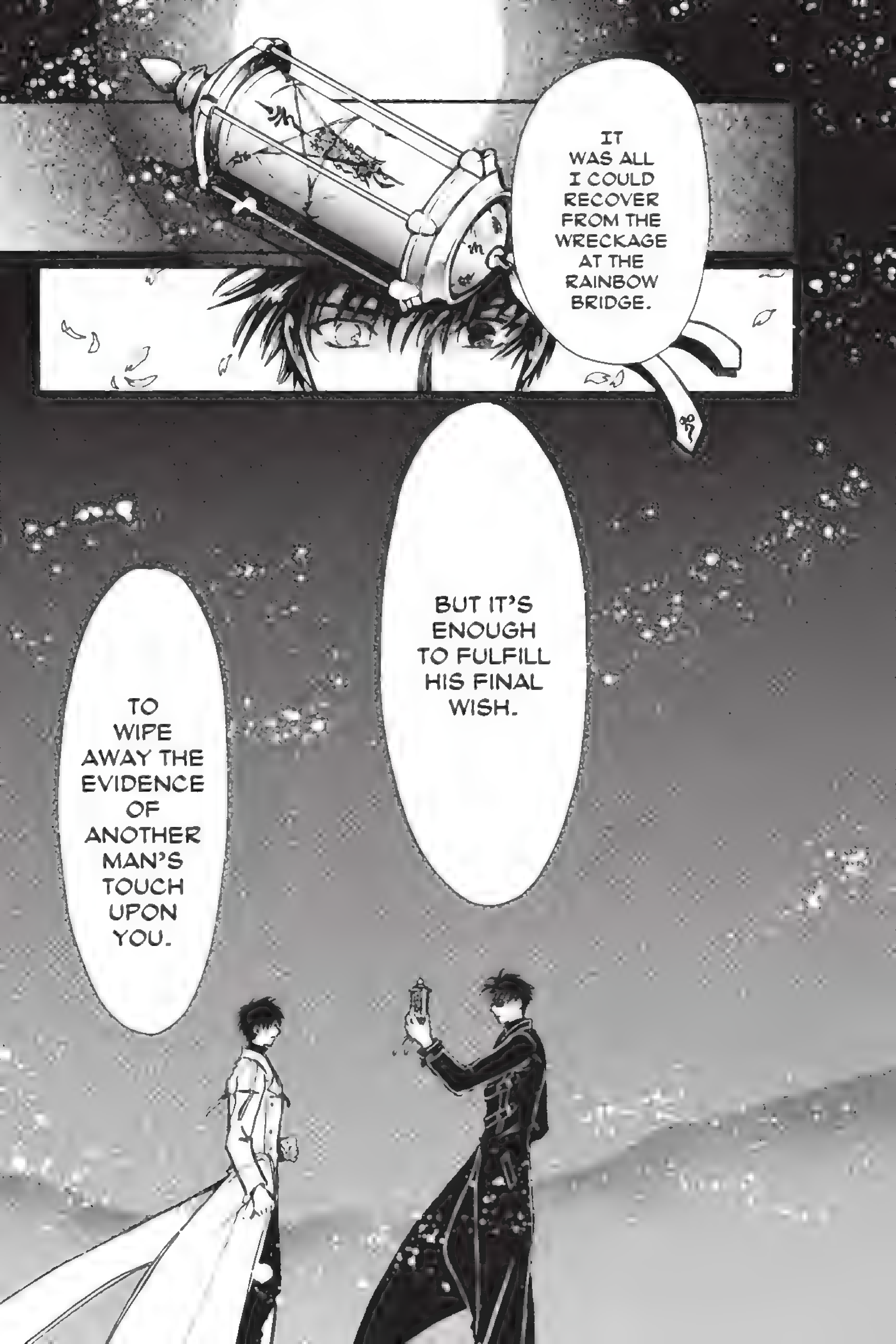

THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?
TO VISIT THIS STRANGE GARDEN.
FLOWERS BLOOM OUT OF SEASON HERE. LIKE THESE.
CA-MELLIA AND...
...CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
BUT THEN...
...THIS *IS* THE HOUSE WHERE THE SAKURAZUKAMORI WAS BORN.

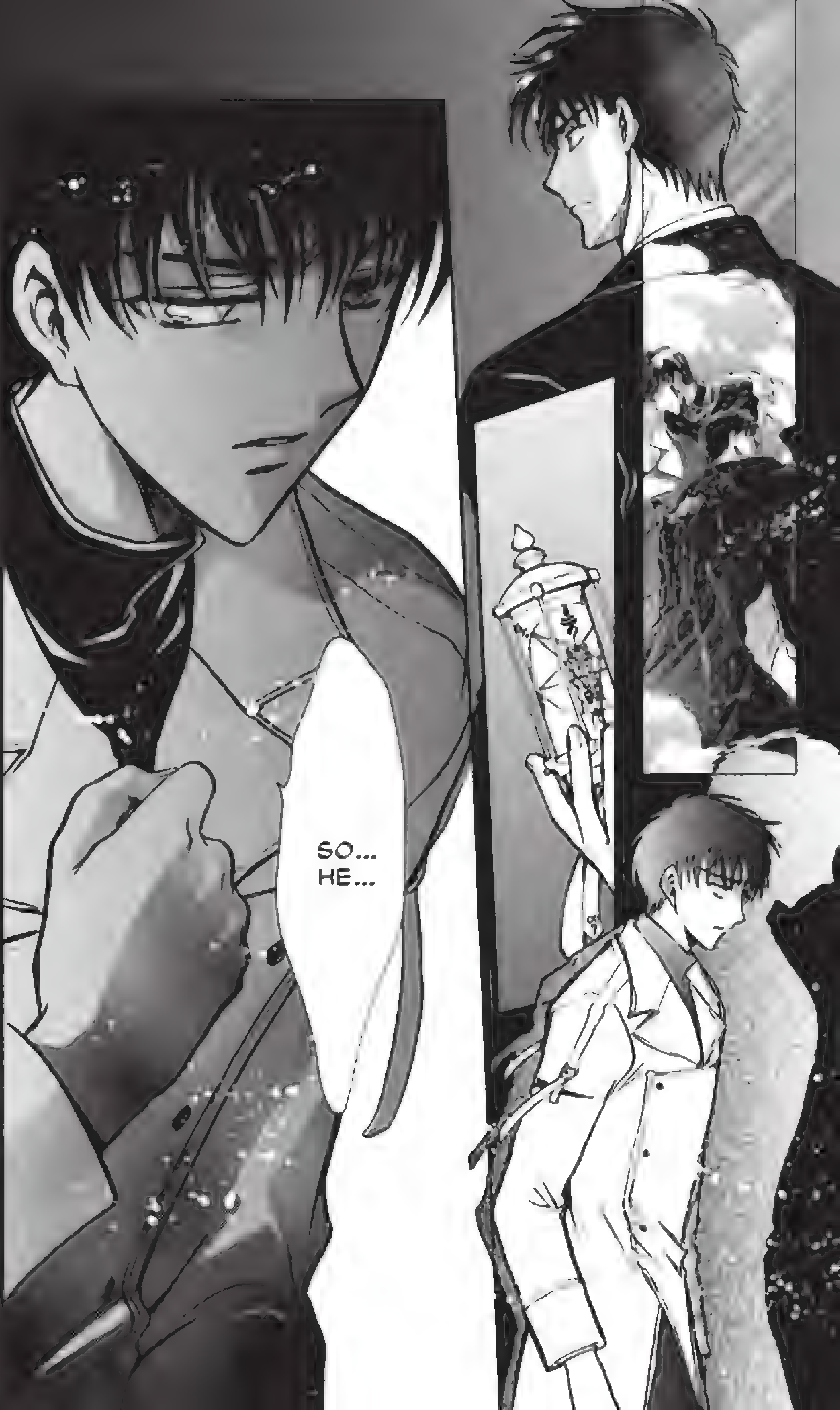

TO BE KILLED BY THE SAKURAZUKAMORI...
...WAS YOUR DEAREST WISH, AND YET HERE YOU STAND.
THAT SAID...
...IT'S STILL POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO GRANT WHAT *HE* MOST DESIRED.

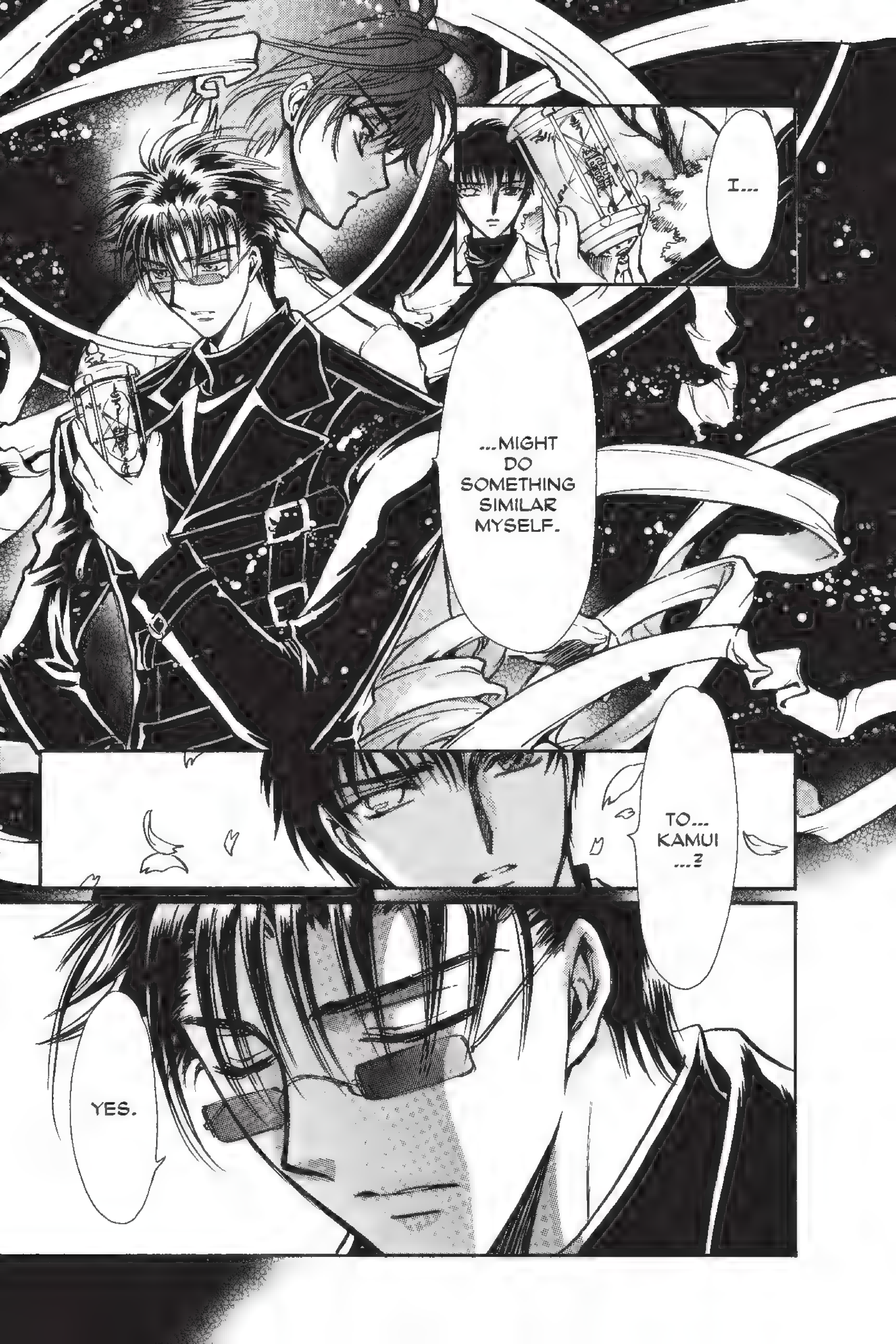

DID HE TELL YOU WHAT THAT WAS?
NO.
BUT I STILL KNOW WHAT HE WANTED.
I CAN DISCERN ANY PERSON'S GREATEST WISH.
KNOW INSTANTLY WHAT BURNING DESIRE DRIVES THEM.
AND IN HIS CASE, THAT RIGHT EYE OF YOURS HAS THE ANSWER.

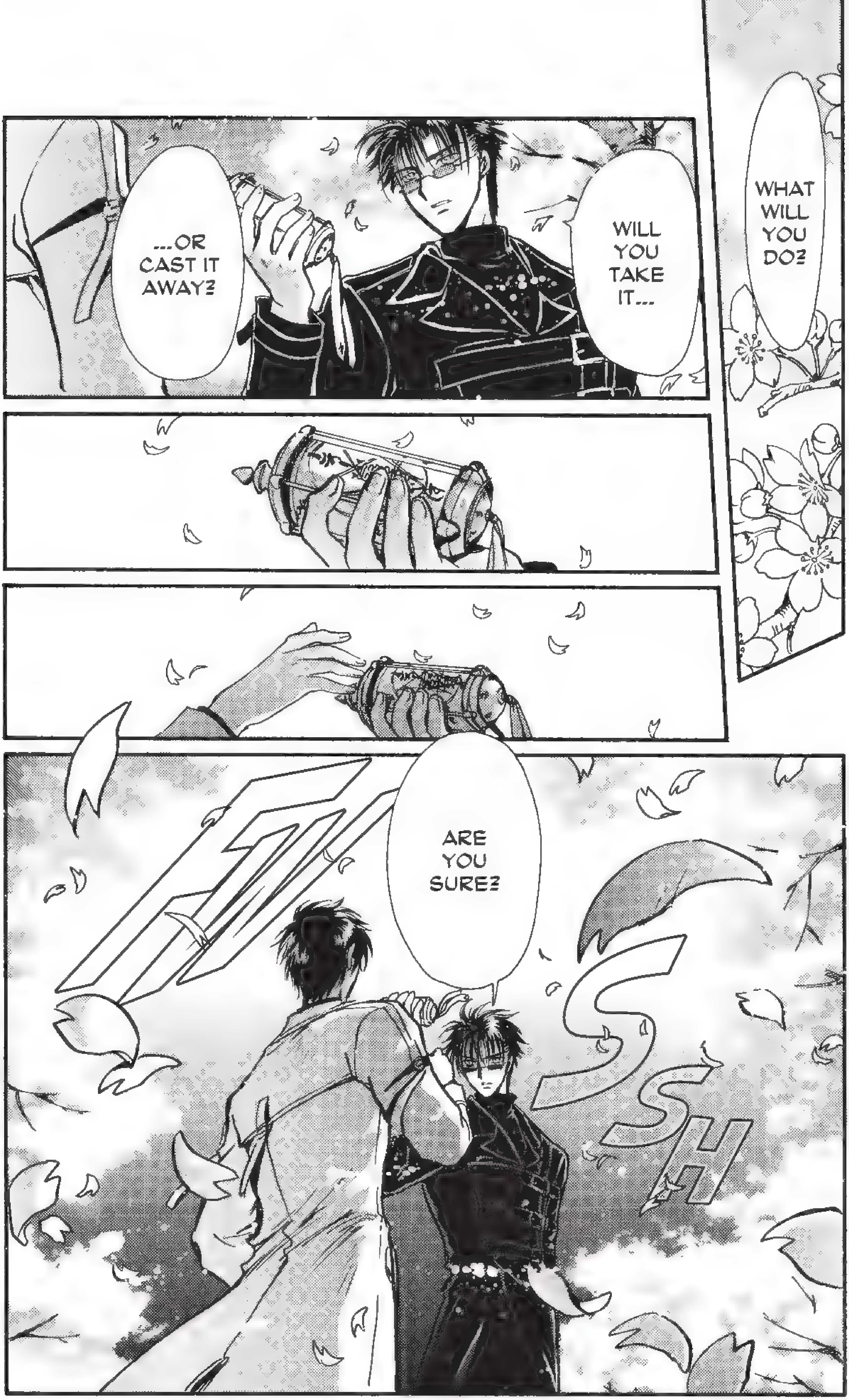

Because
...this is what you wished for.
YOU LOST THE EYE.
AND ...
...THE SAKURAZUKAMORI WASN'T TOO PLEASED ABOUT IT.

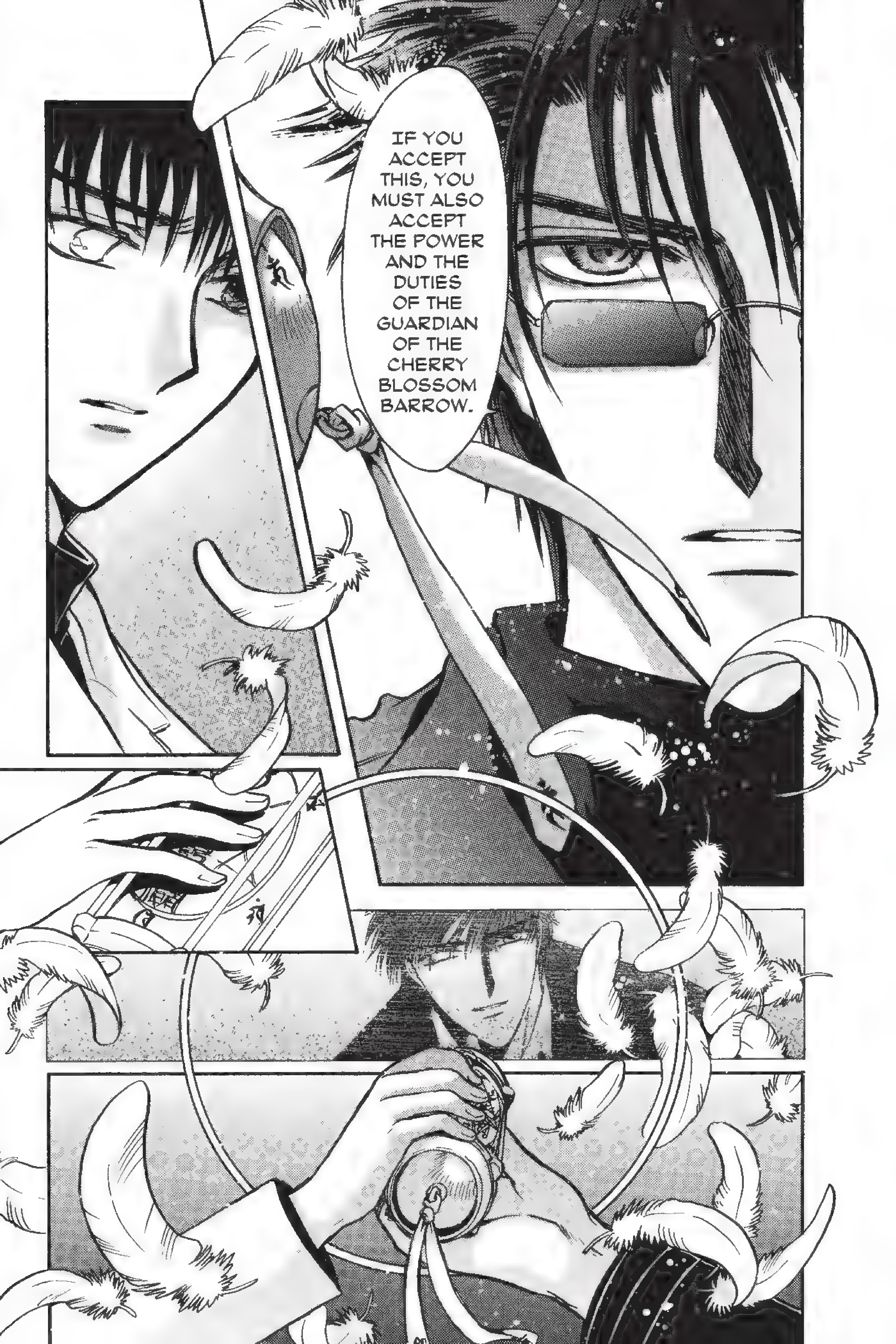

HE...
...COULDN'T STAND THE IDEA OF YOU BEING SCARRED BY ANYONE ELSE BUT HIM.
AND SO, WHAT HE DESIRED MOST WAS TO ERASE THAT INJURY.
INSIDE THIS CONTAINER...
...IS THE LEFT EYE OF THE SAKURAZUKAMORI.


IT WAS ALL I COULD RECOVER FROM THE WRECKAGE AT THE RAINBOW BRIDGE.
BUT IT'S ENOUGH TO FULFILL HIS FINAL WISH.
TO WIPE AWAY THE EVIDENCE OF ANOTHER MAN'S TOUCH UPON YOU.


SO...
HE...

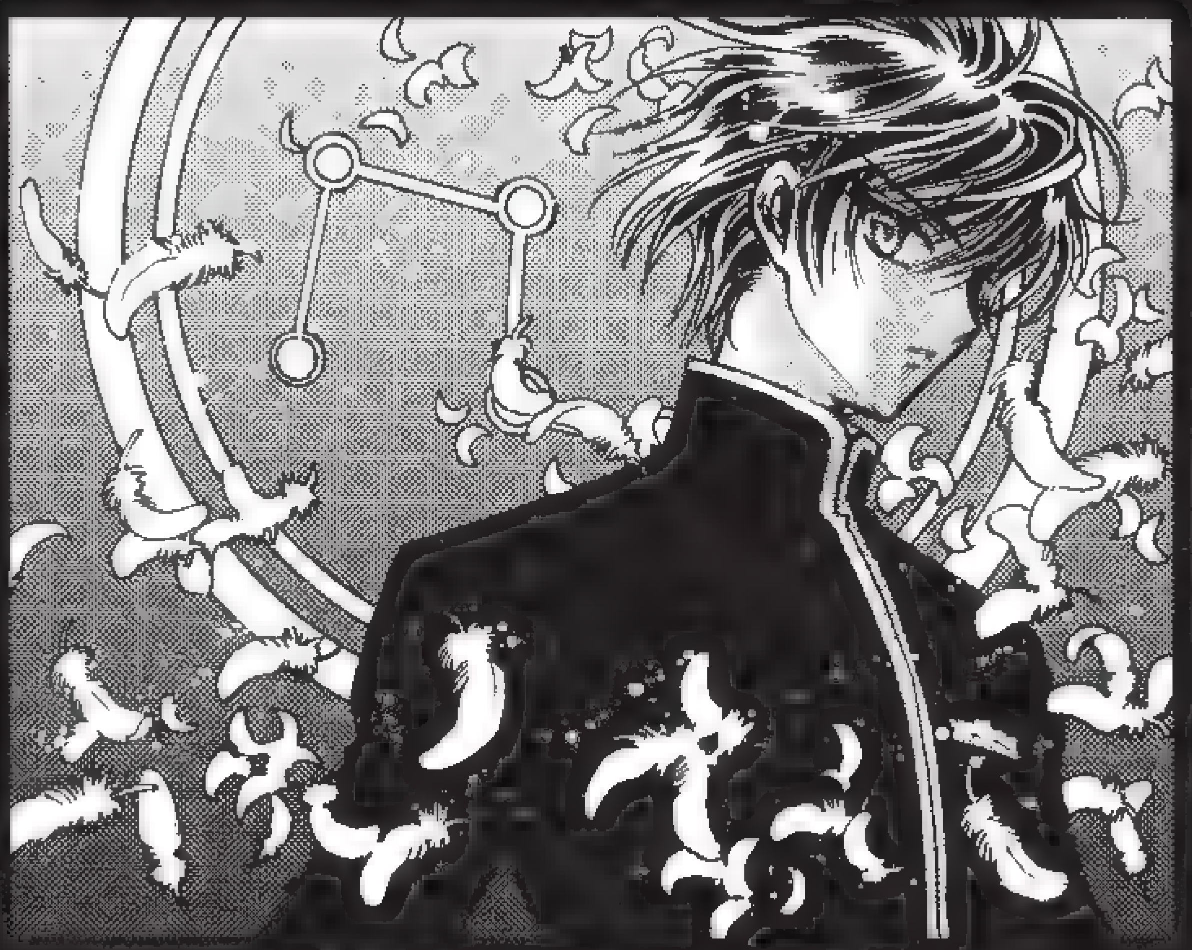

I...
...MIGHT DO SOMETHING SIMILAR MYSELF.
TO... KAMUI ...?
YES.


WHAT WILL YOU DO?
WILL YOU TAKE IT...
...OR CAST IT AWAY?
ARE YOU SURE?
FWSH


IF YOU ACCEPT THIS, YOU MUST ALSO ACCEPT THE POWER AND THE DUTIES OF THE GUARDIAN OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM BARROW.

TO BE CONTINUED...

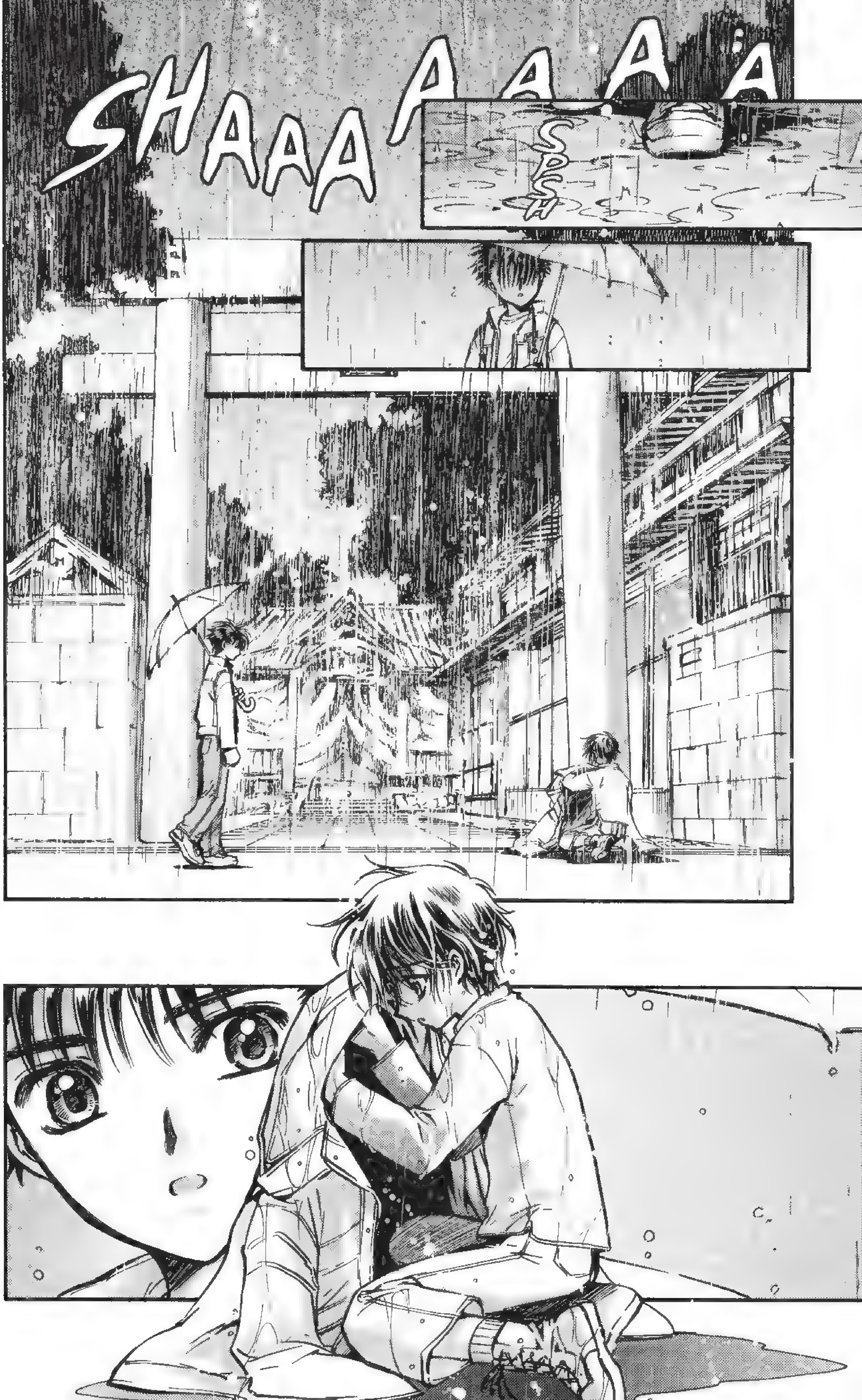
# X

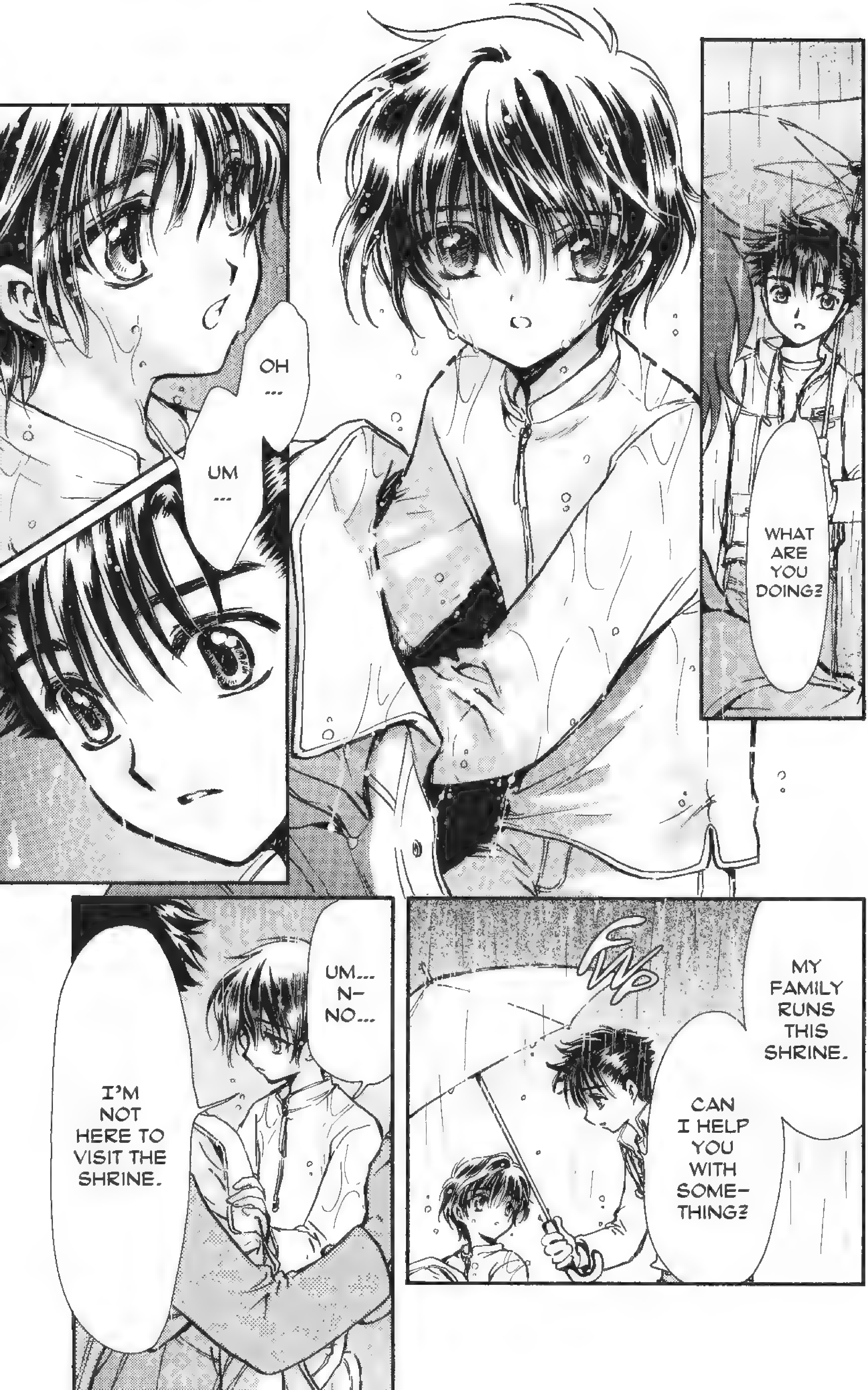


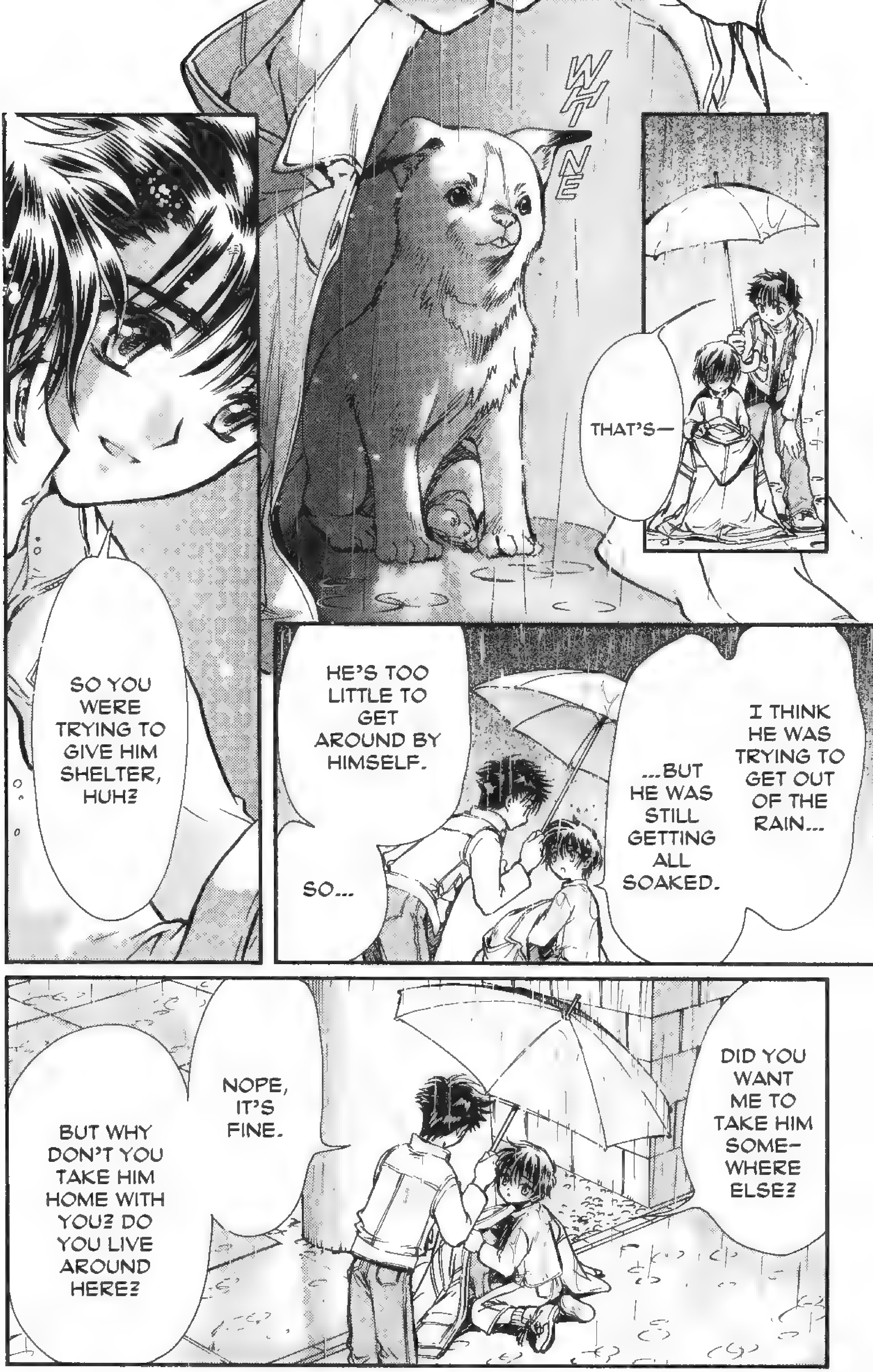
KAMUI SHIRO

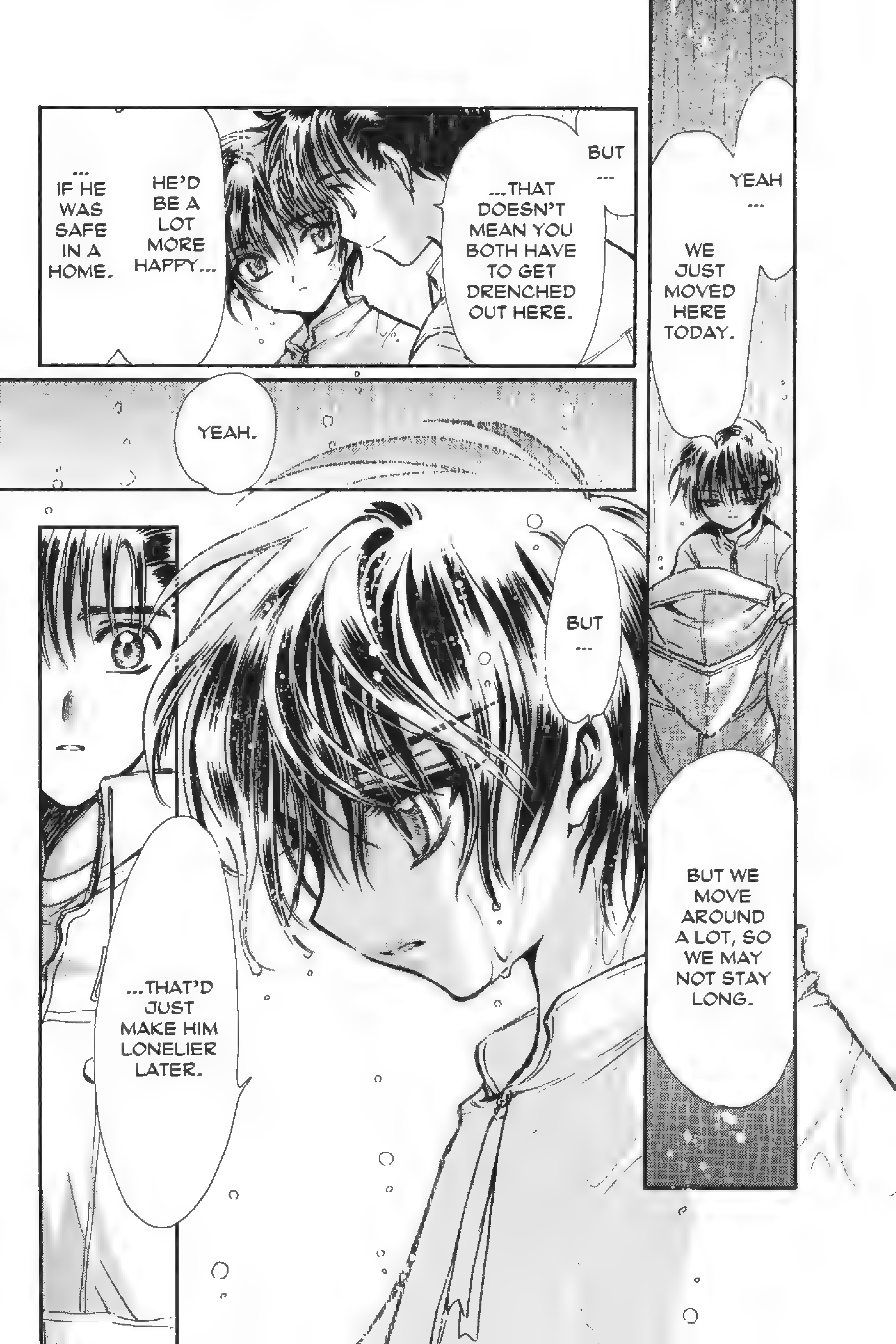
# X

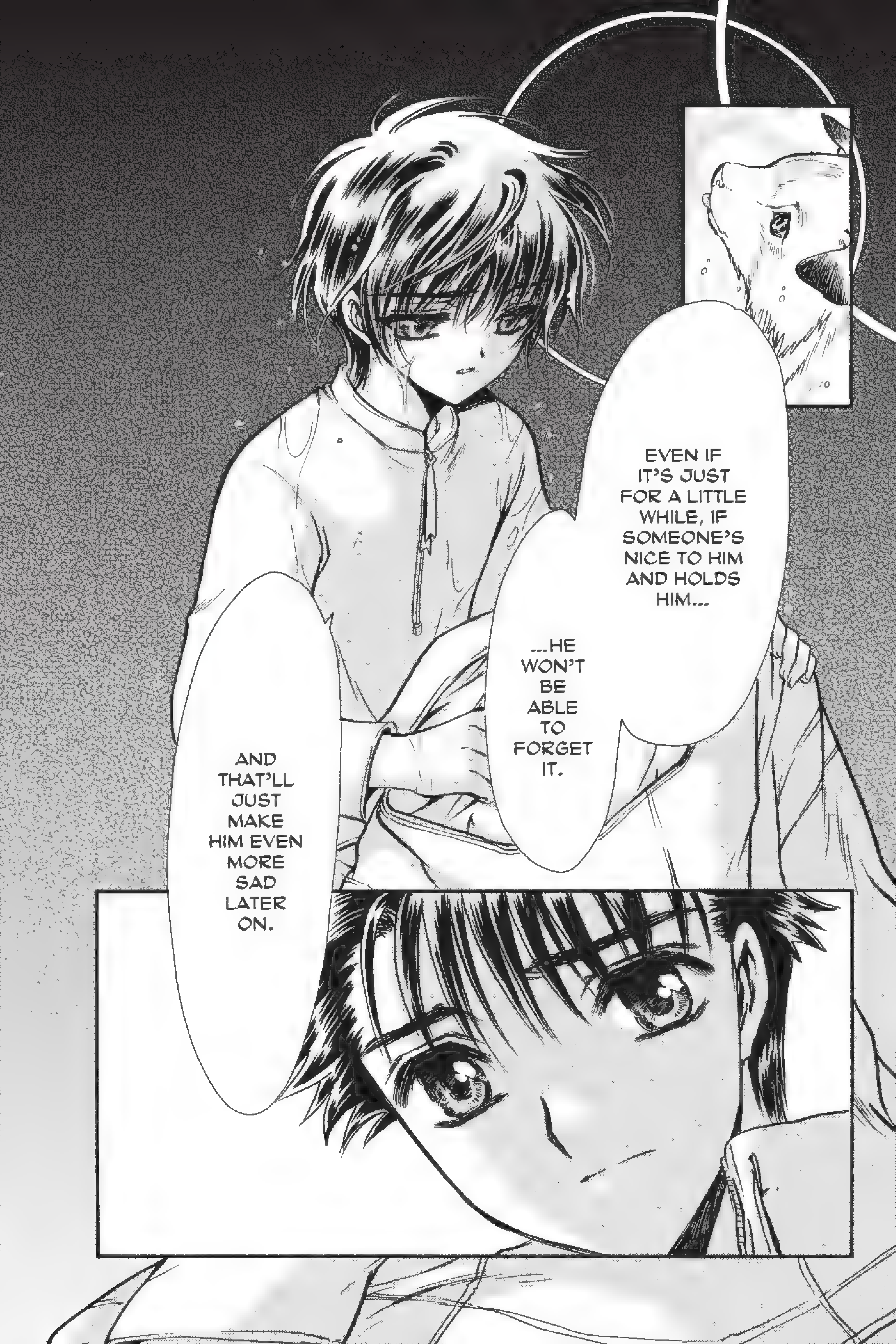
FUMA MONOU

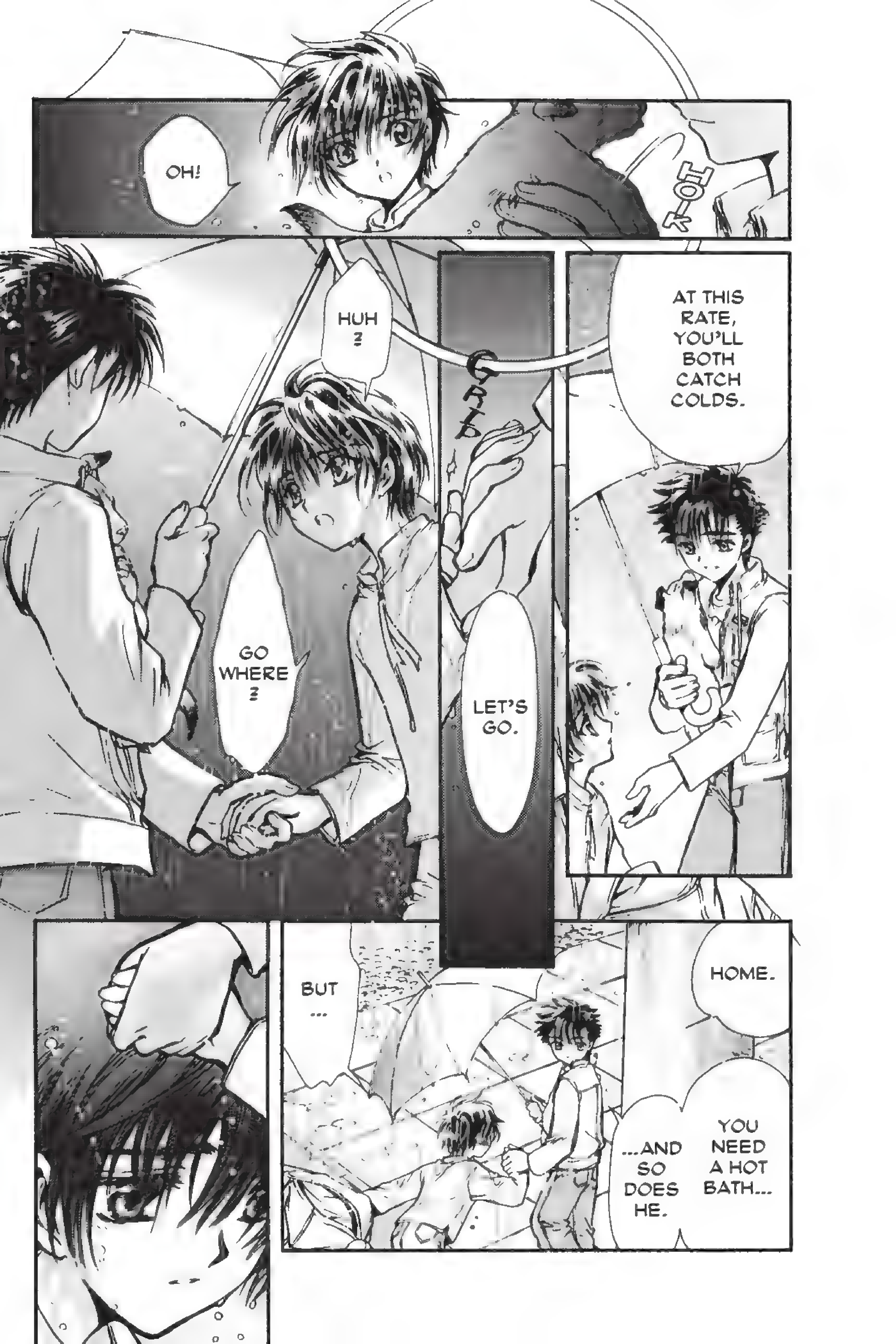

SHAAAAAAA
SPSH

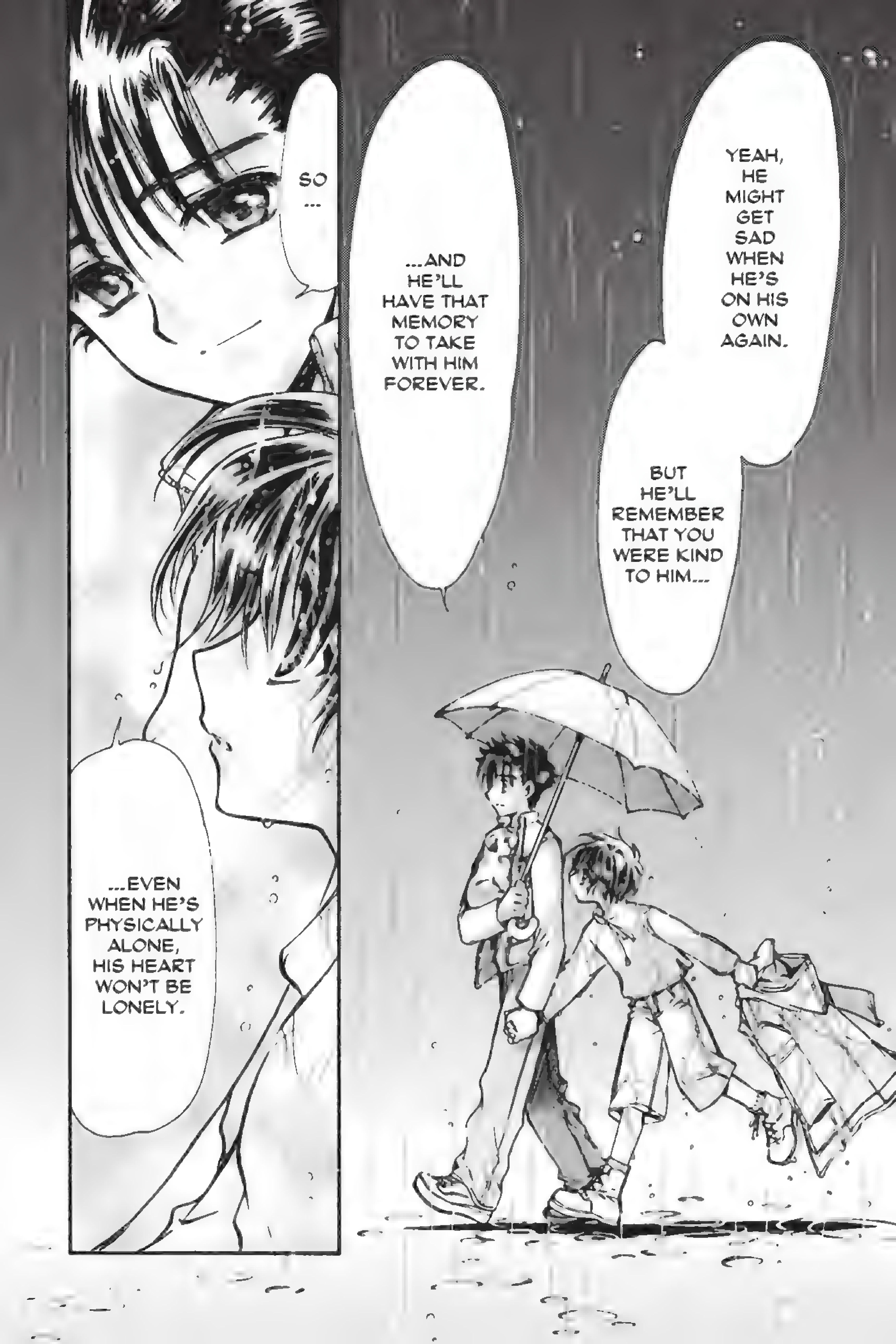

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH ...
UM ...
MY FAMILY RUNS THIS SHRINE.
CAN I HELP YOU WITH SOMETHING?
UM... N-NO...
I'M NOT HERE TO VISIT THE SHRINE.

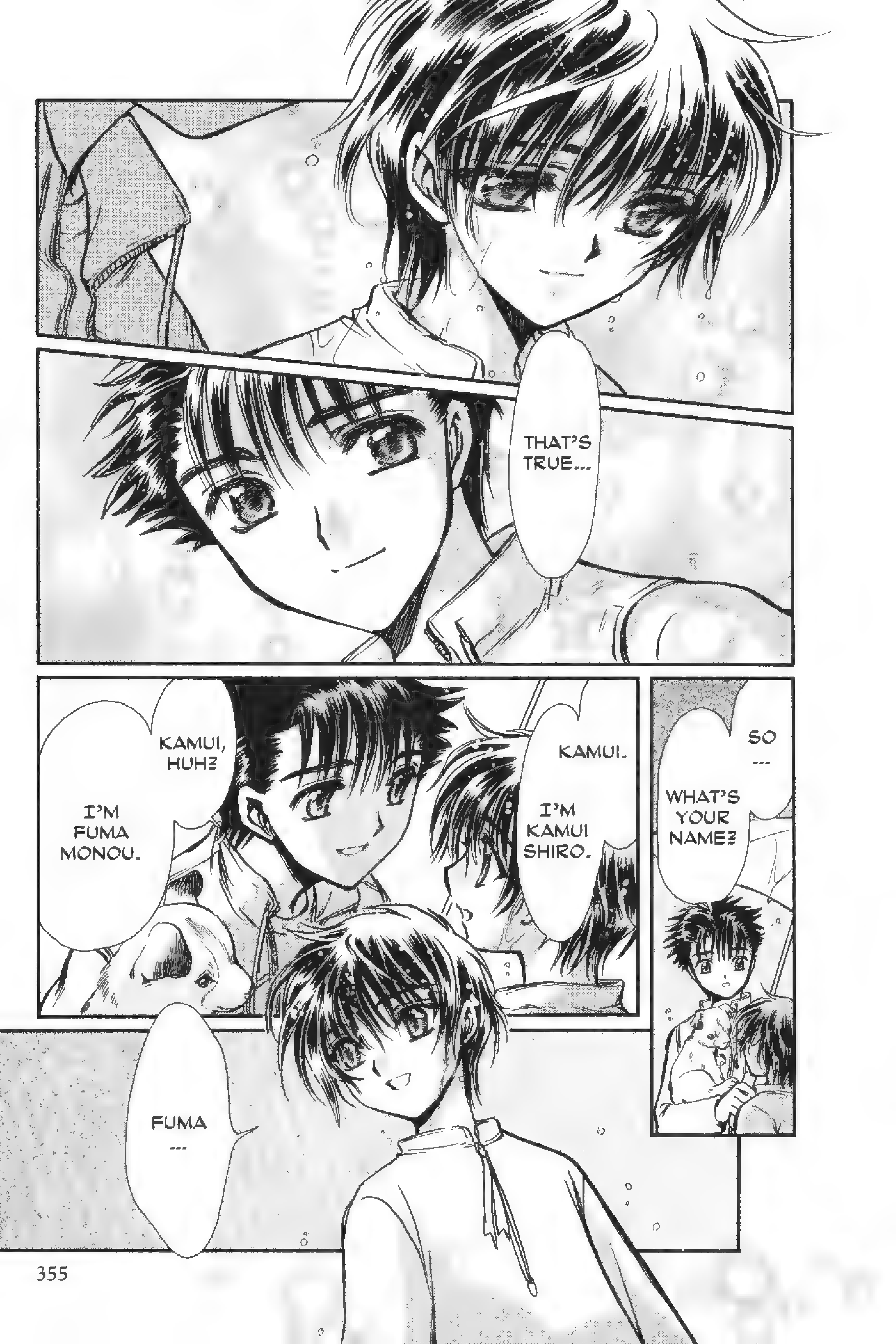

THAT'S—
WHINE
I THINK HE WAS TRYING TO GET OUT OF THE RAIN...
...BUT HE WAS STILL GETTING ALL SOAKED.
HE'S TOO LITTLE TO GET AROUND BY HIMSELF.
SO...
SO YOU WERE TRYING TO GIVE HIM SHELTER, HUH?
DID YOU WANT ME TO TAKE HIM SOMEWHERE ELSE?
NOPE, IT'S FINE.
BUT WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HIM HOME WITH YOU? DO YOU LIVE AROUND HERE?

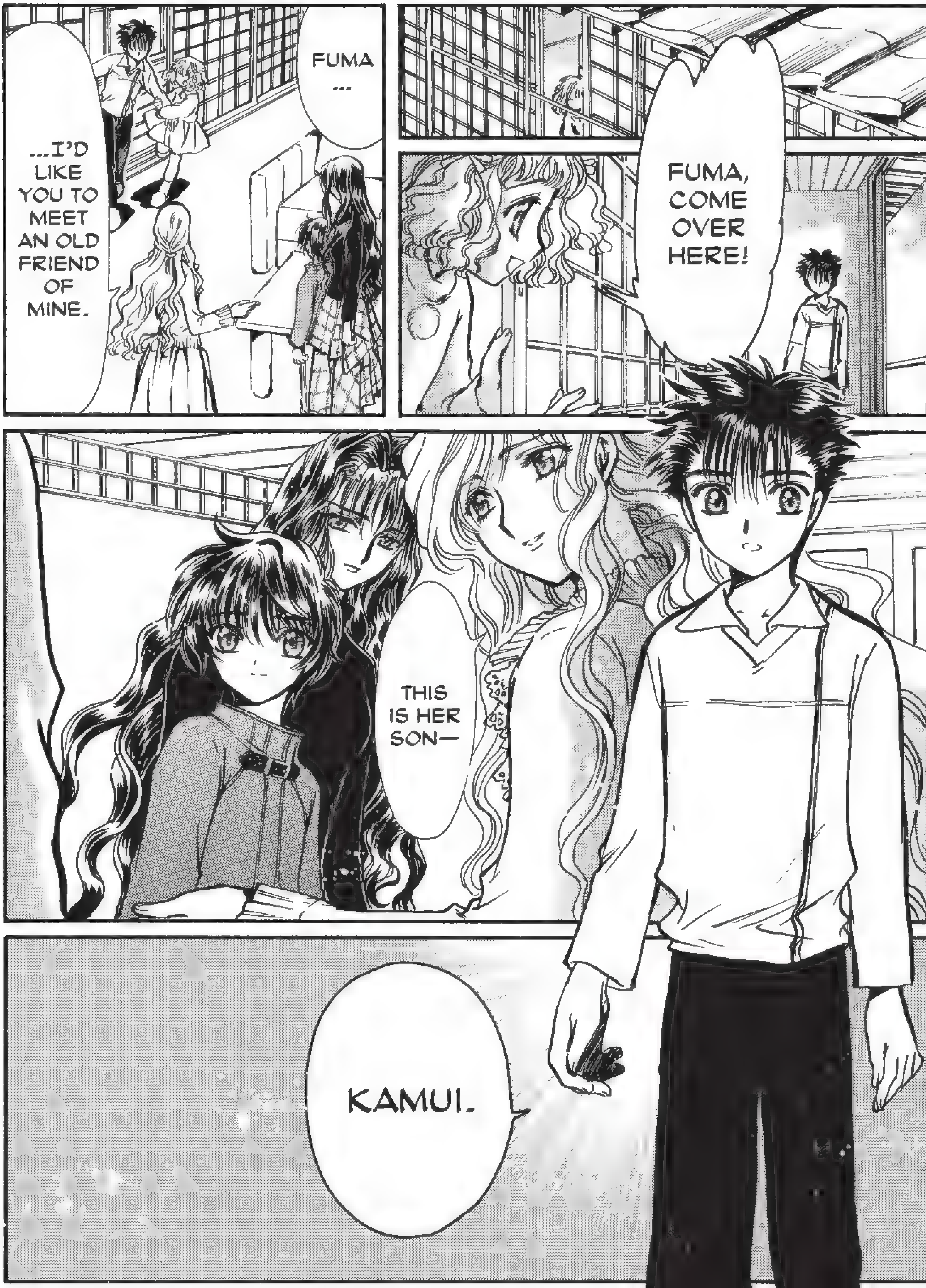

YEAH ... WE JUST MOVED HERE TODAY.
BUT WE MOVE AROUND A LOT, SO WE MAY NOT STAY LONG.
BUT ... ...THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU BOTH HAVE TO GET DRENCHED OUT HERE.
HE'D BE A LOT MORE HAPPY...
... IF HE WAS SAFE IN A HOME.
YEAH.
BUT ...
...THAT'D JUST MAKE HIM LONELIER LATER.

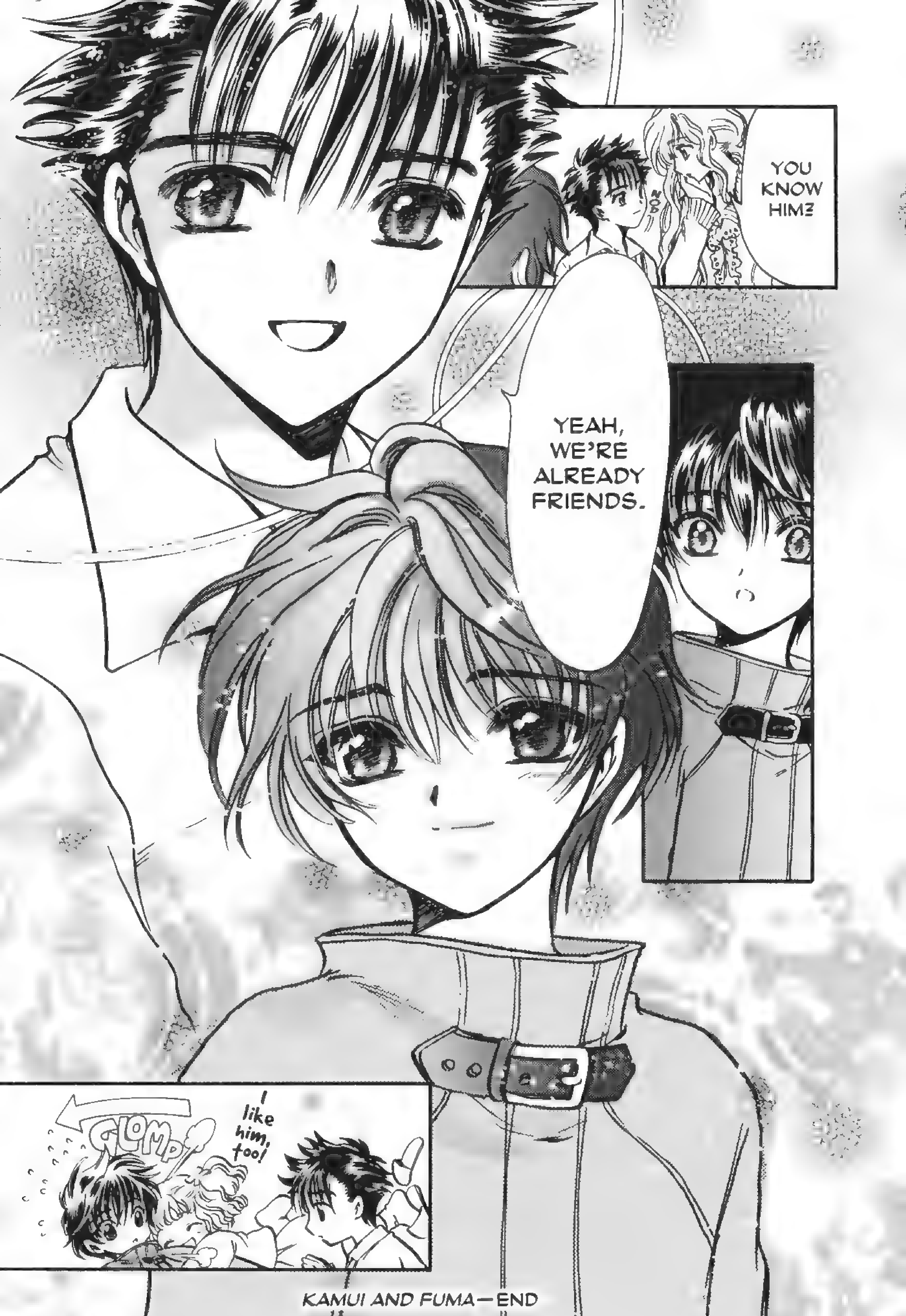

EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, IF SOMEONE'S NICE TO HIM AND HOLDS HIM...
...HE WON'T BE ABLE TO FORGET IT.
AND THAT'LL JUST MAKE HIM EVEN MORE SAD LATER ON.


OH!
HOK
AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL BOTH CATCH COLDS.
GRAB
LET'S GO.
HUH?
GO WHERE?
HOME.
YOU NEED A HOT BATH...
...AND SO DOES HE.
BUT...


YEAH, HE MIGHT GET SAD WHEN HE'S ON HIS OWN AGAIN.
BUT HE'LL REMEMBER THAT YOU WERE KIND TO HIM...
...AND HE'LL HAVE THAT MEMORY TO TAKE WITH HIM FOREVER.
SO ...
...EVEN WHEN HE'S PHYSICALLY ALONE, HIS HEART WON'T BE LONELY.


THAT'S TRUE...
SO ... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
KAMUI. I'M KAMUI SHIRO.
KAMUI, HUH? I'M FUMA MONOU.
FUMA ...


FUMA, COME OVER HERE!
FUMA...
...I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE.
THIS IS HER SON—
KAMUI.


YOU KNOW HIM?
NOD
YEAH, WE'RE ALREADY FRIENDS.
I like him, too!
GLOMP

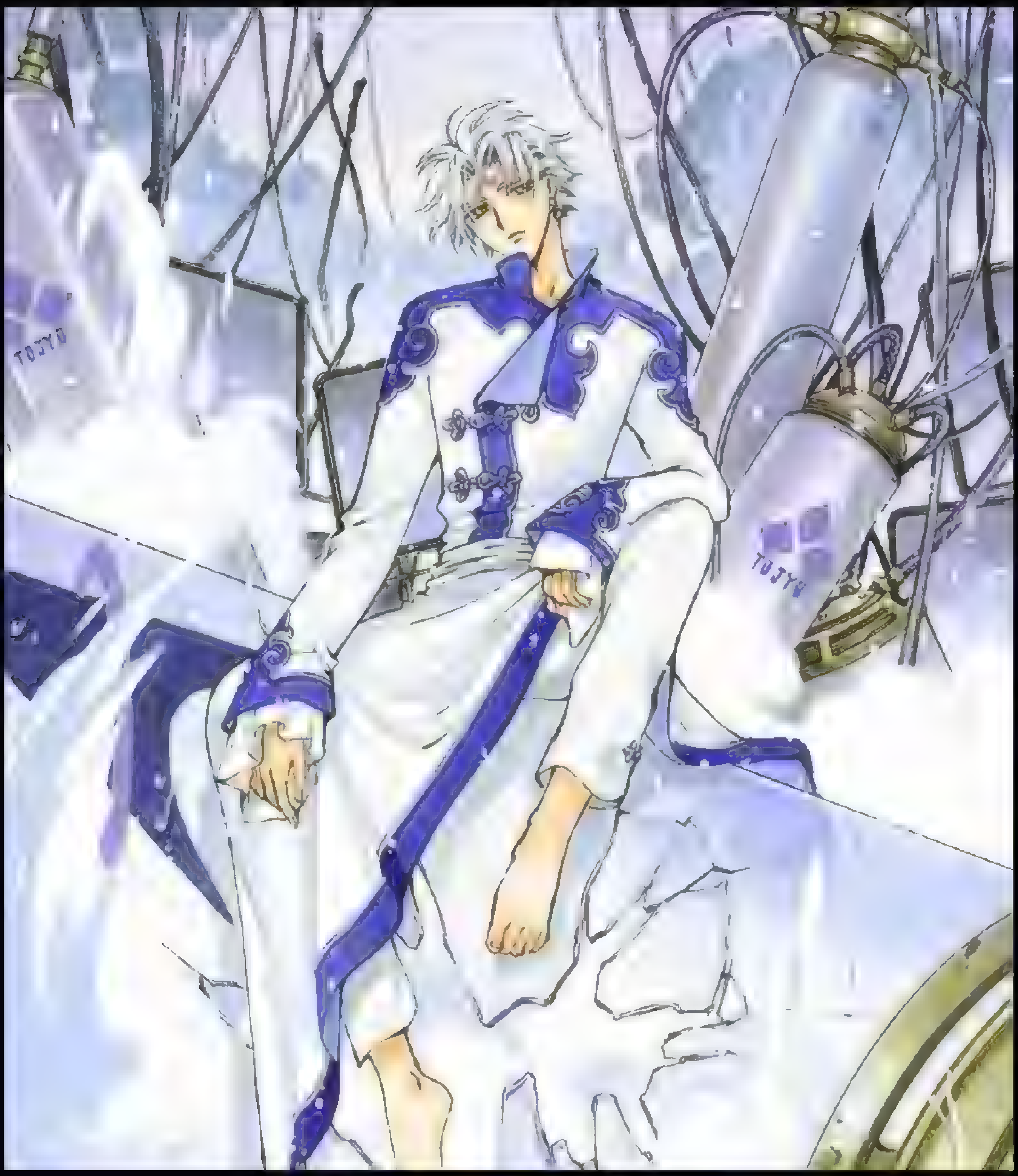
KAMUI AND FUMA—END

# X

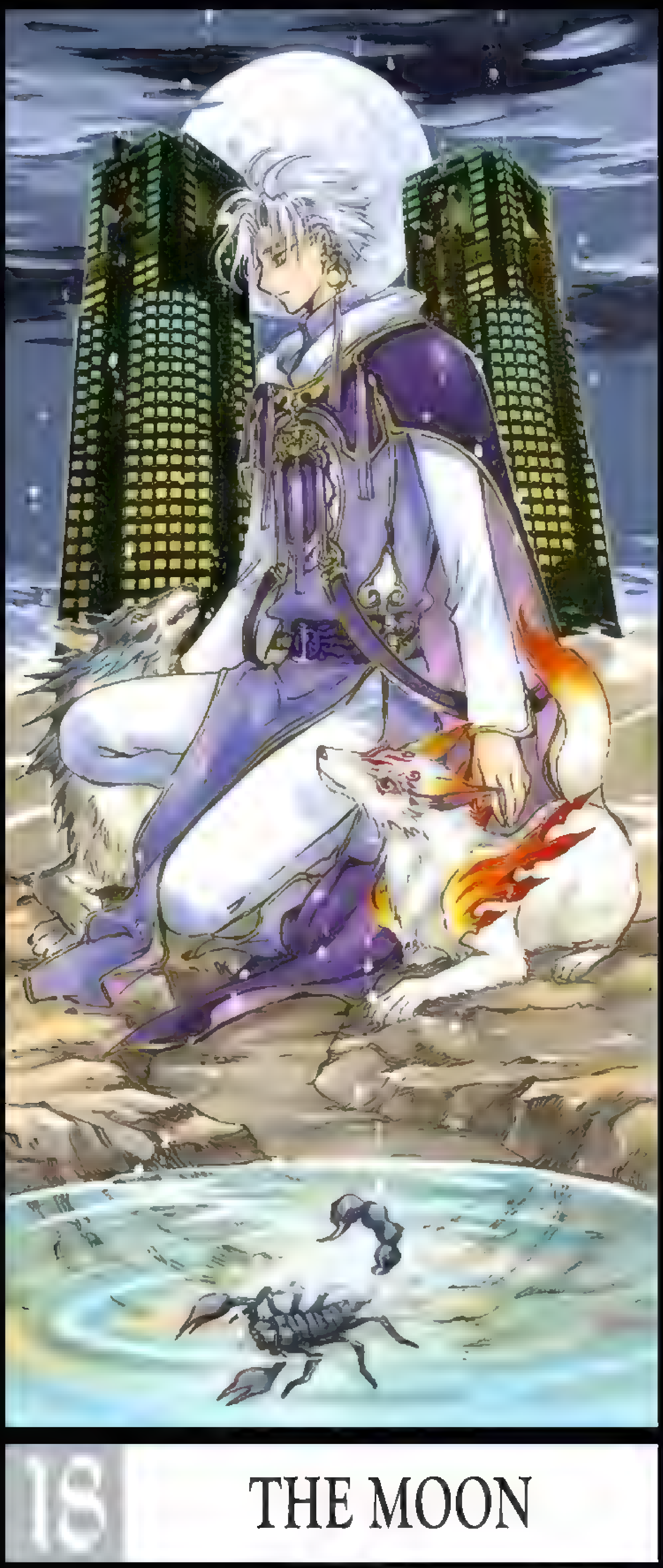
# X

## VOLUME 3, PART 3

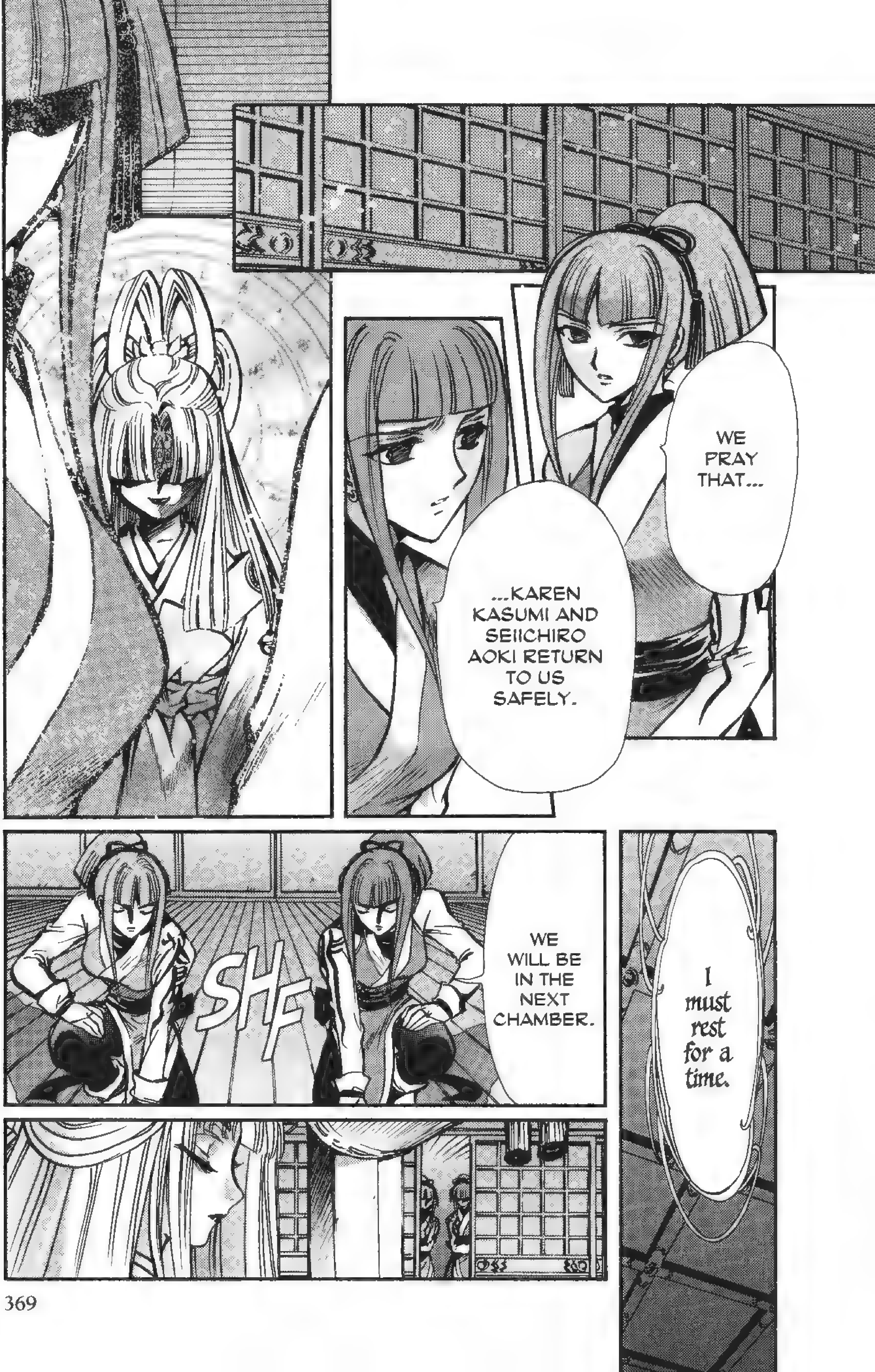
## THE ENDING II

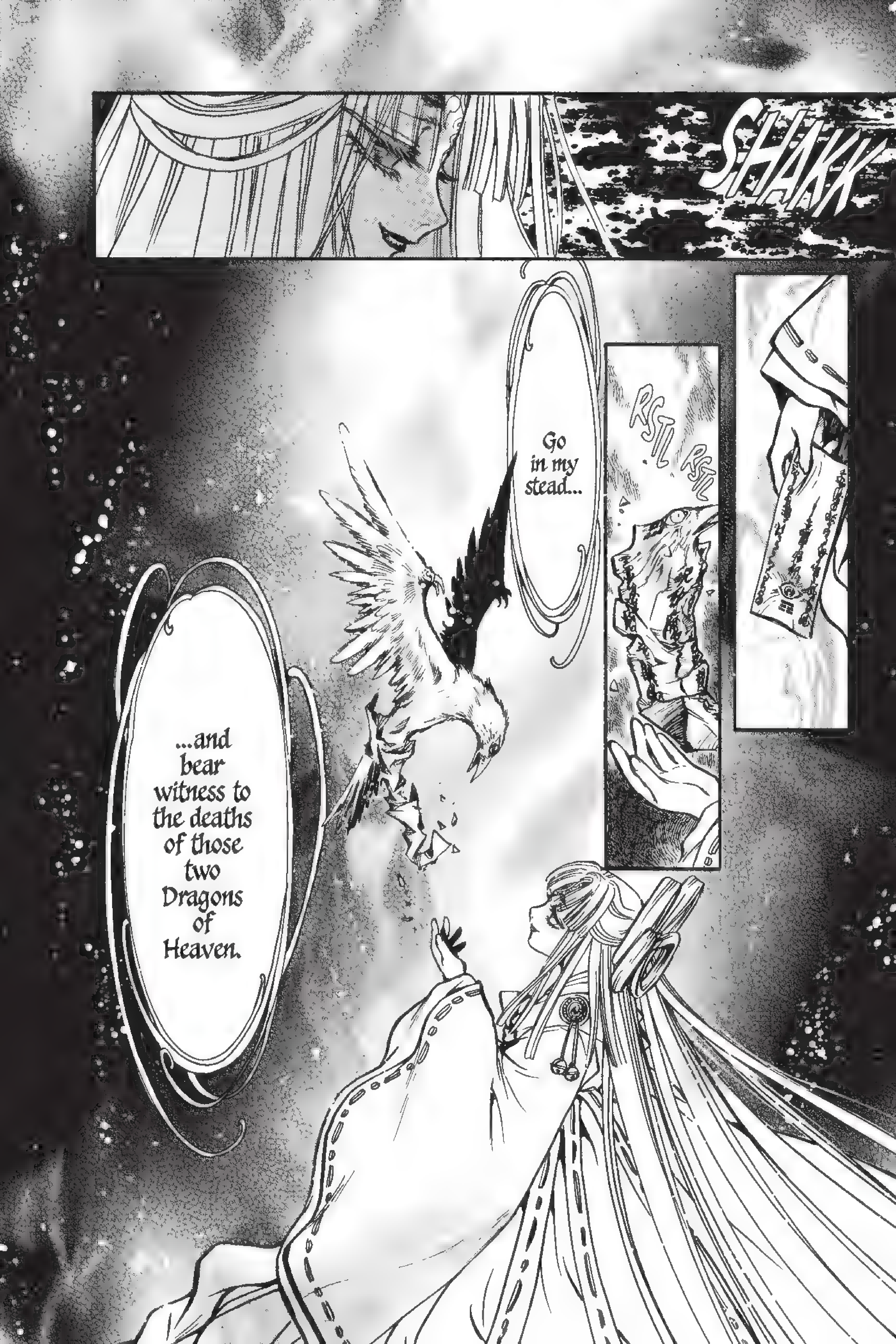

TOJYO
TOJYO

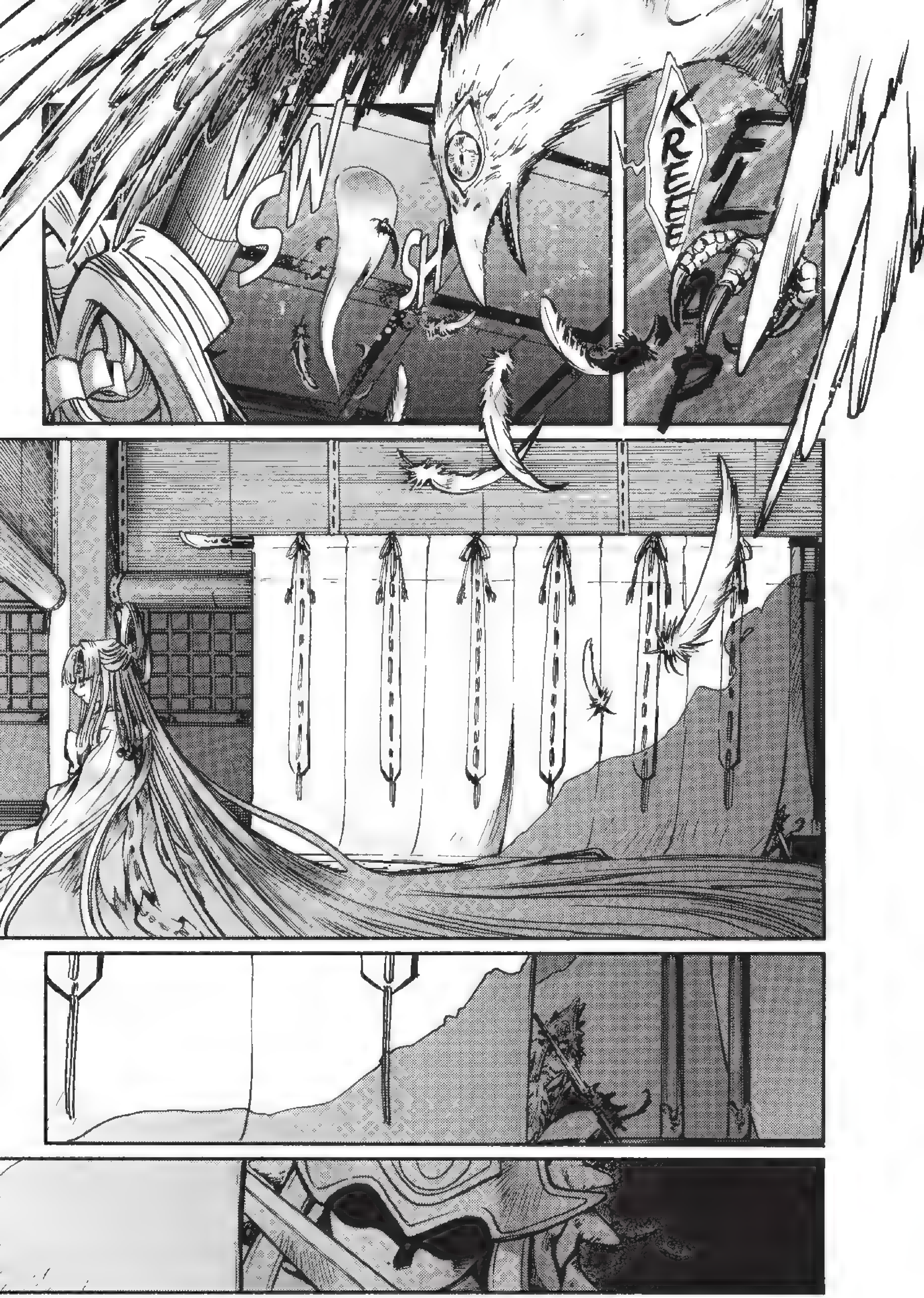
X

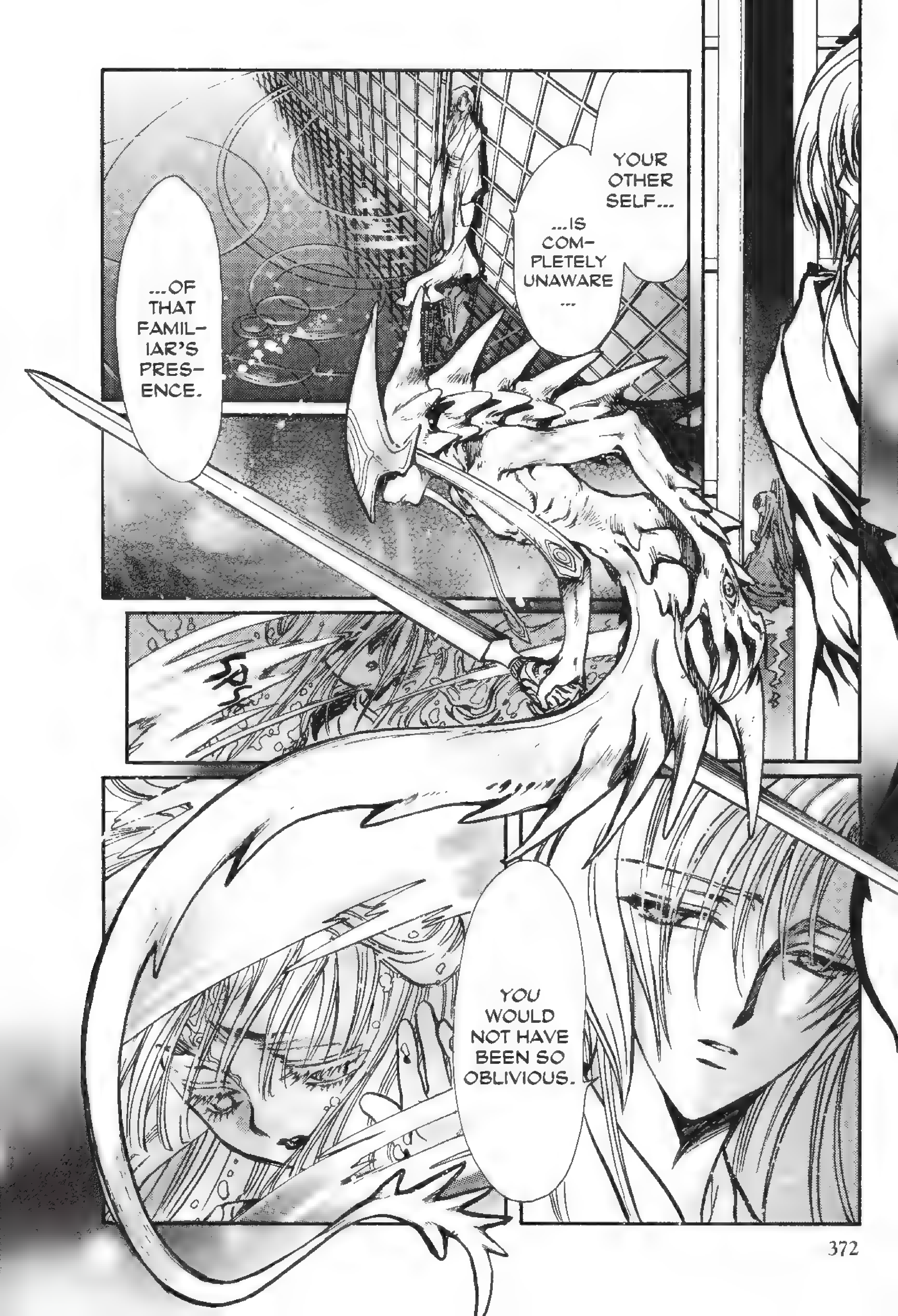


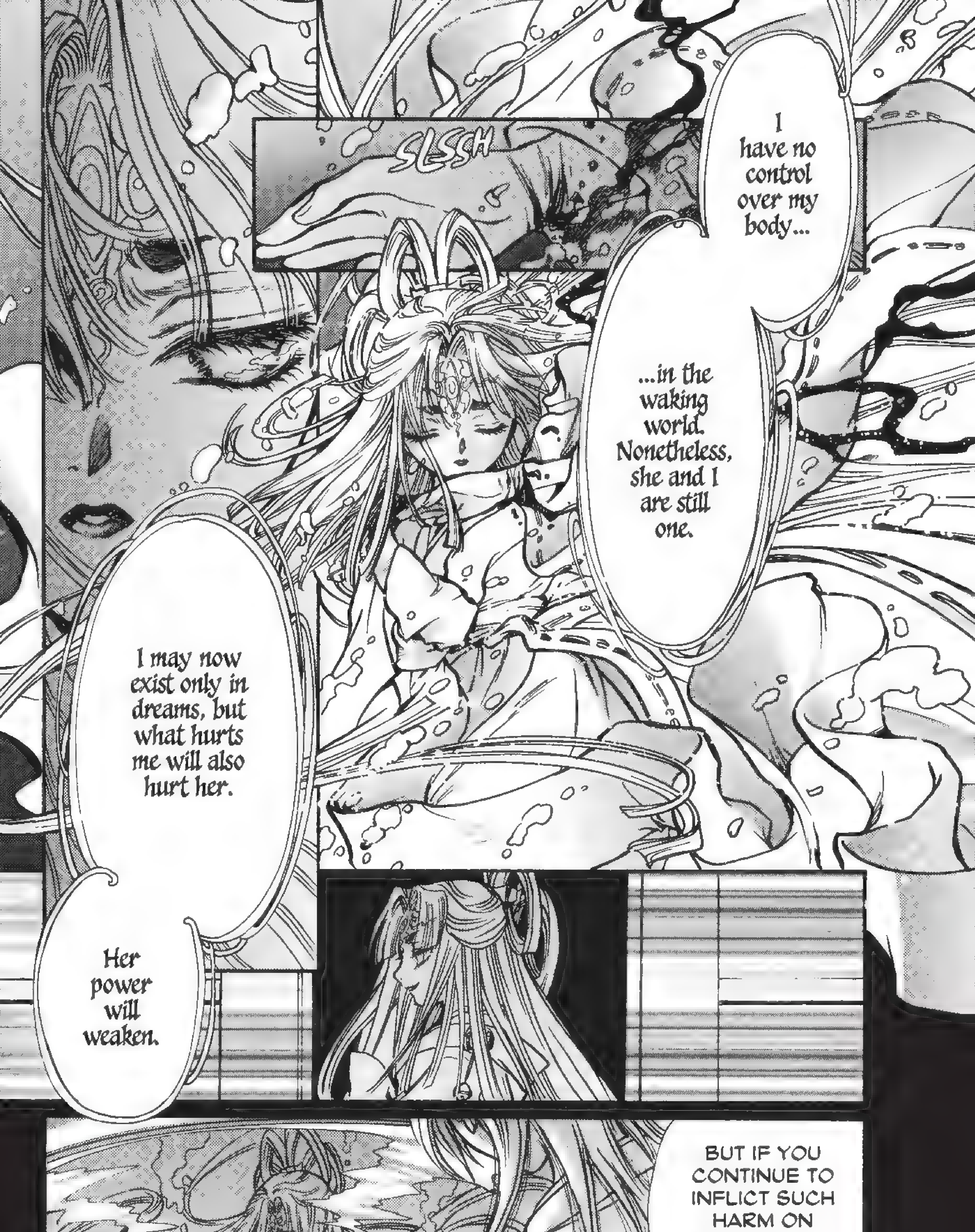
ק

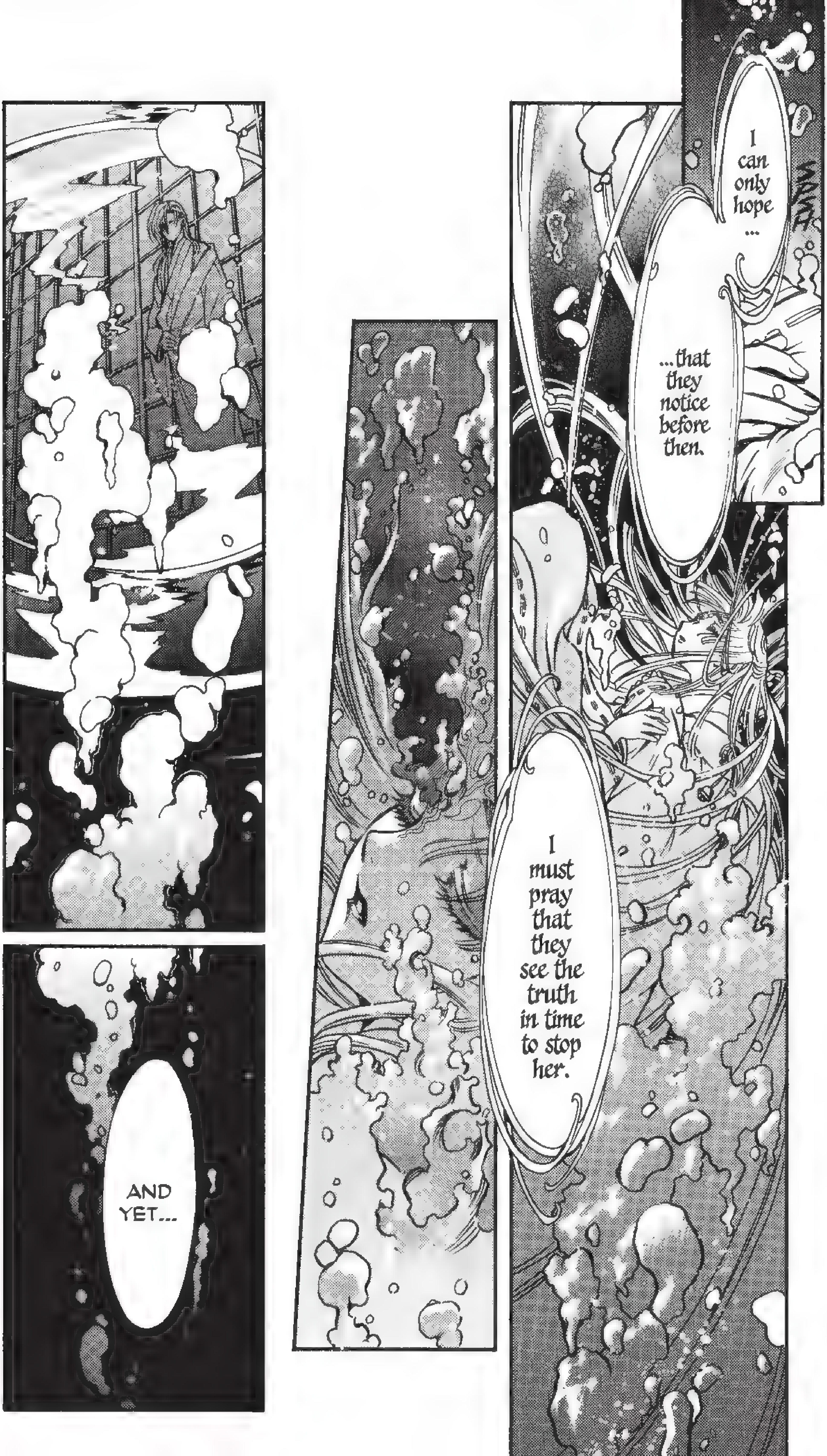

WE PRAY THAT...
...KAREN KASUMI AND SEIICHIRO AOKI RETURN TO US SAFELY.
I must rest for a time.
WE WILL BE IN THE NEXT CHAMBER.
SHF

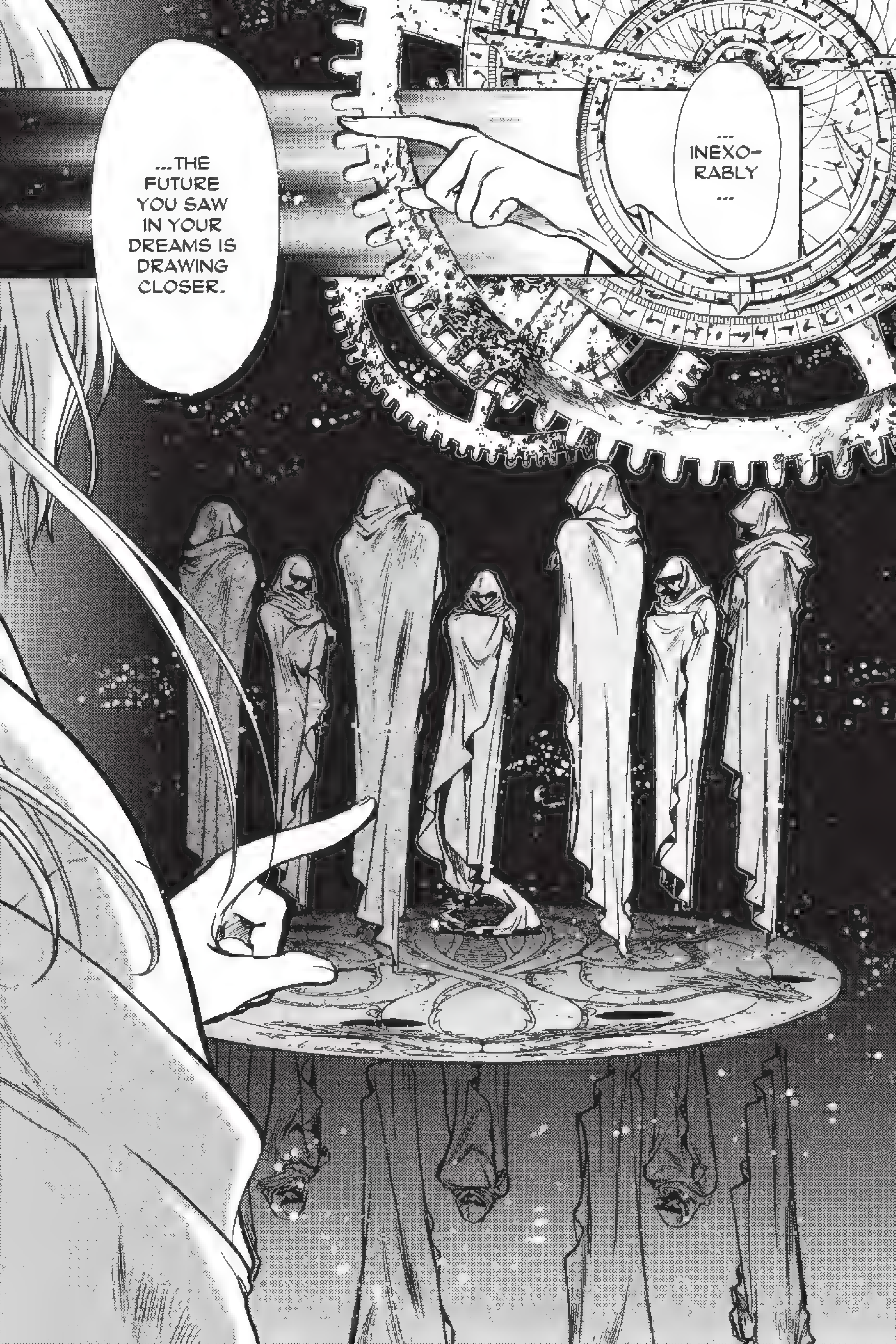

SHAKK
RSTL RSTL
Go in my stead...
...and bear witness to the deaths of those two Dragons of Heaven.

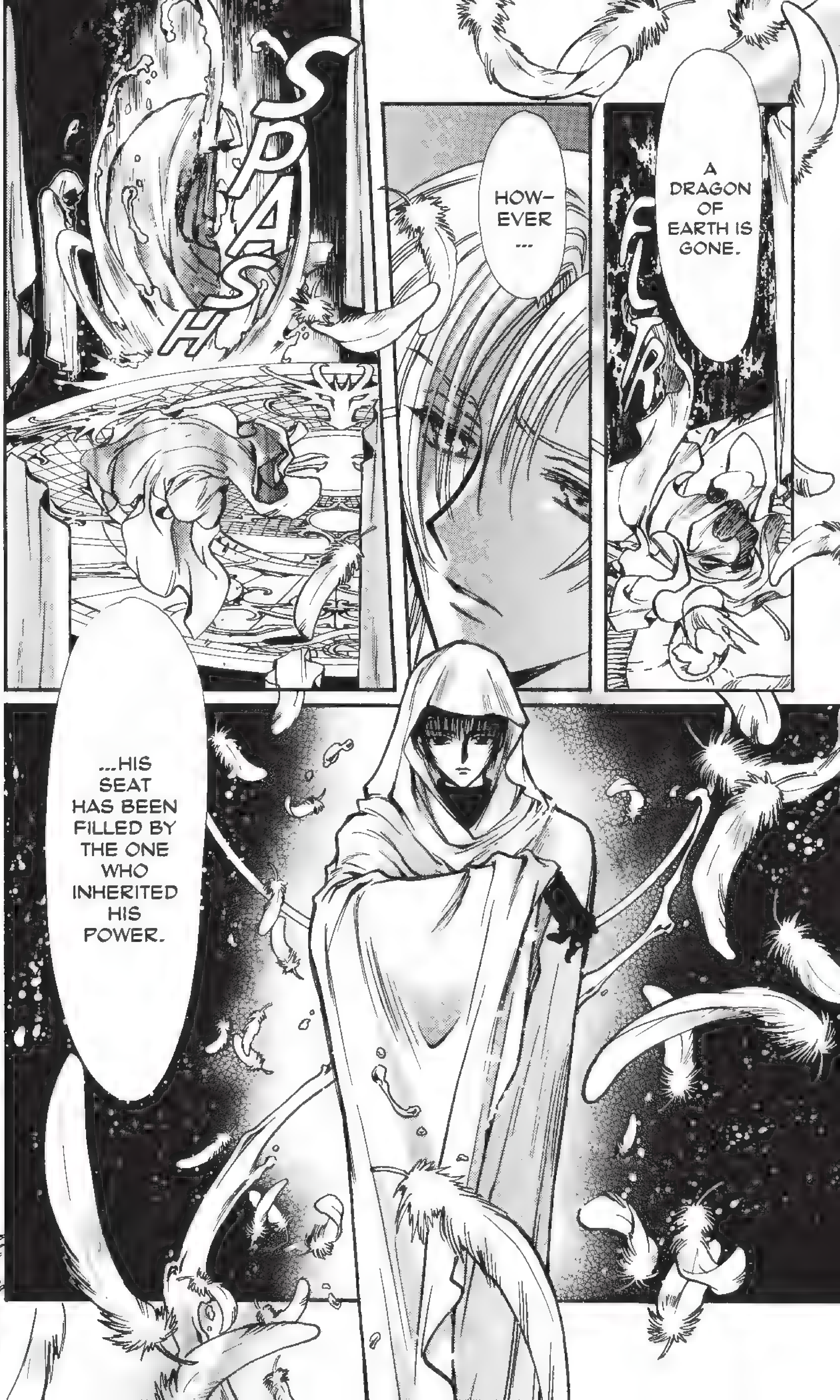

FLIP
KREEEE
SWISH

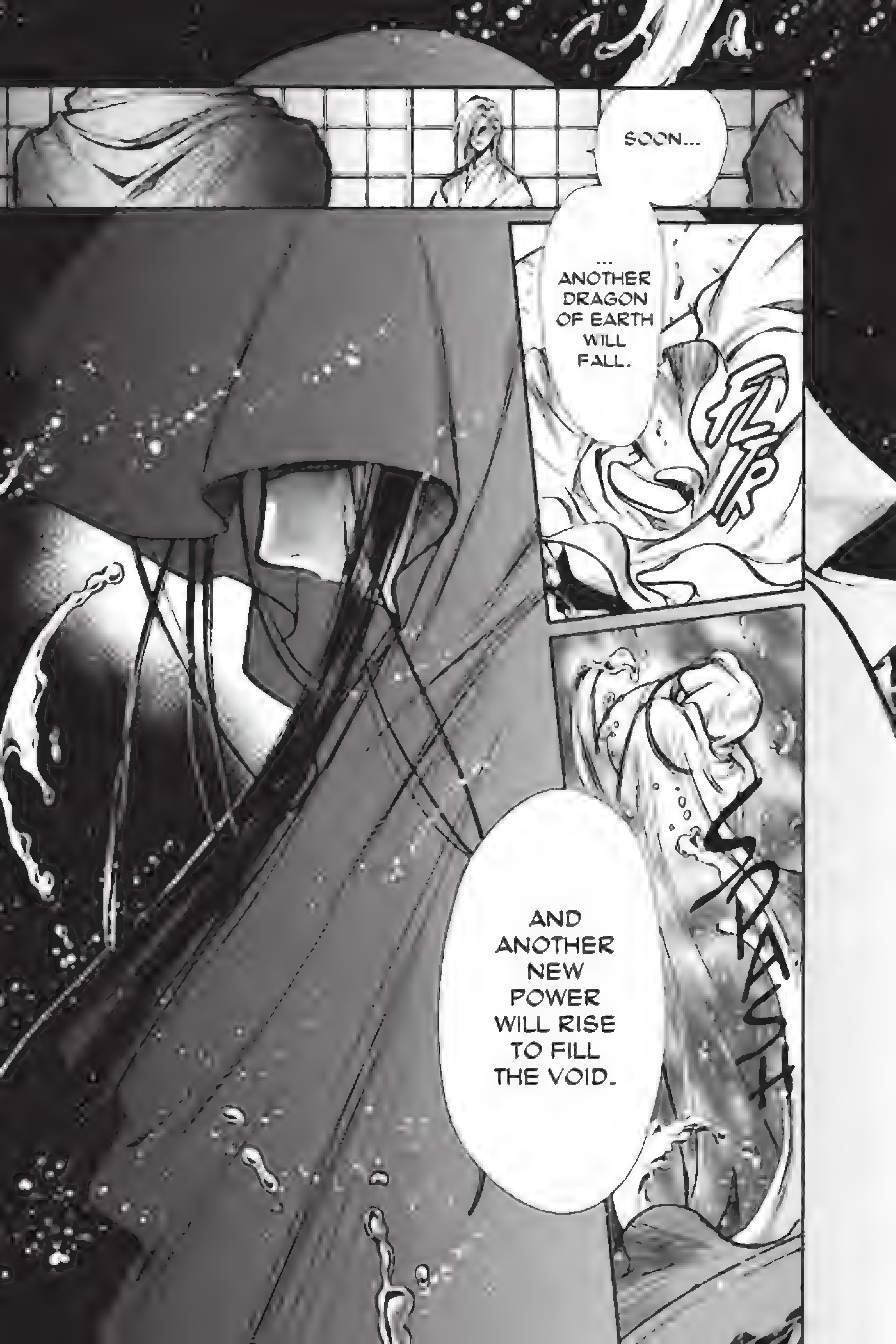

YOUR OTHER SELF...
...IS COMPLETELY UNAWARE ...
...OF THAT FAMILIAR'S PRESENCE.
YOU WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO OBLIVIOUS.

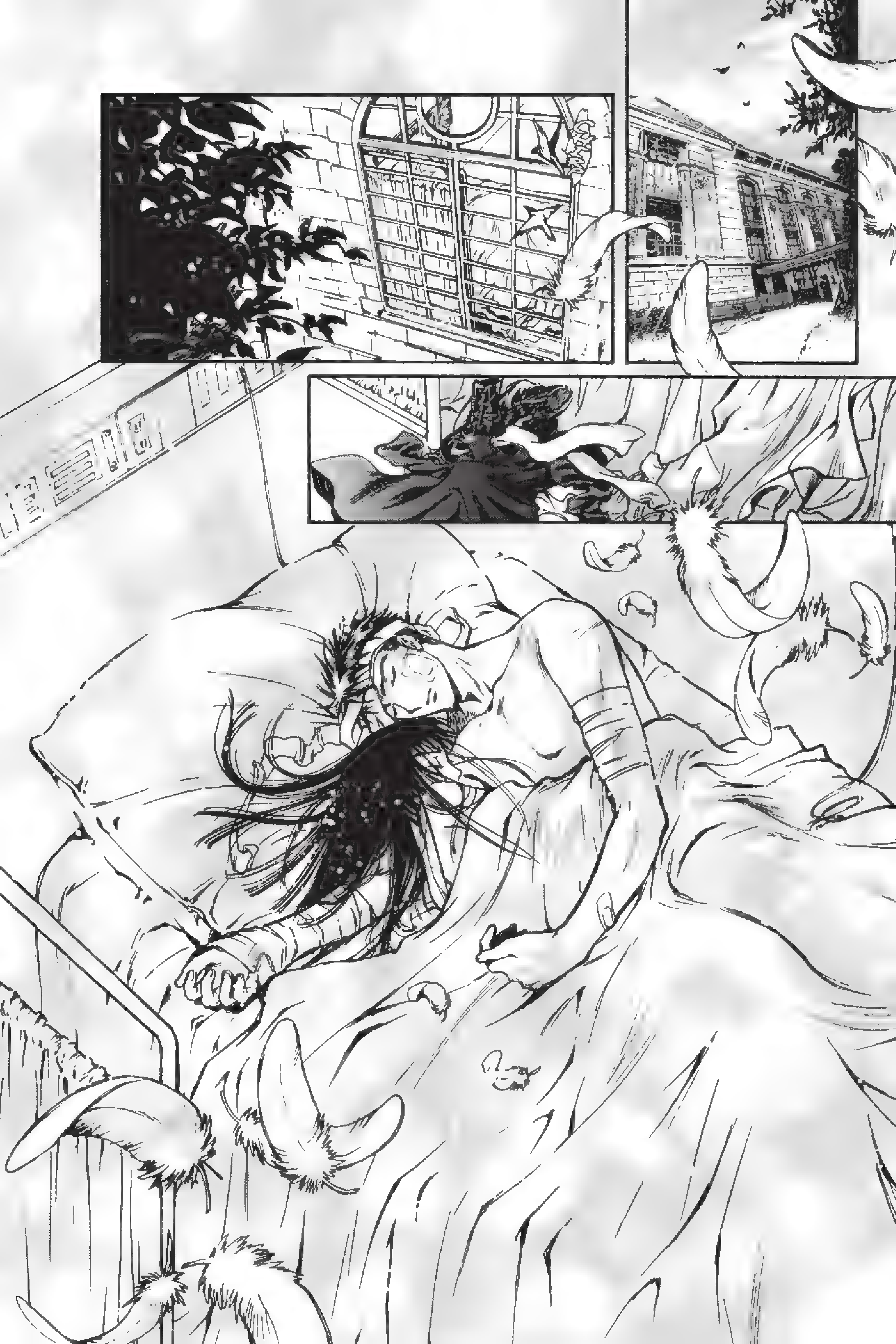

SLSSH
I have no control over my body...
...in the waking world. Nonetheless, she and I are still one.
I may now exist only in dreams, but what hurts me will also hurt her.
Her power will weaken.
BUT IF YOU CONTINUE TO INFLICT SUCH HARM ON YOURSELF, YOUR SOUL WILL EVENTUALLY DIE.

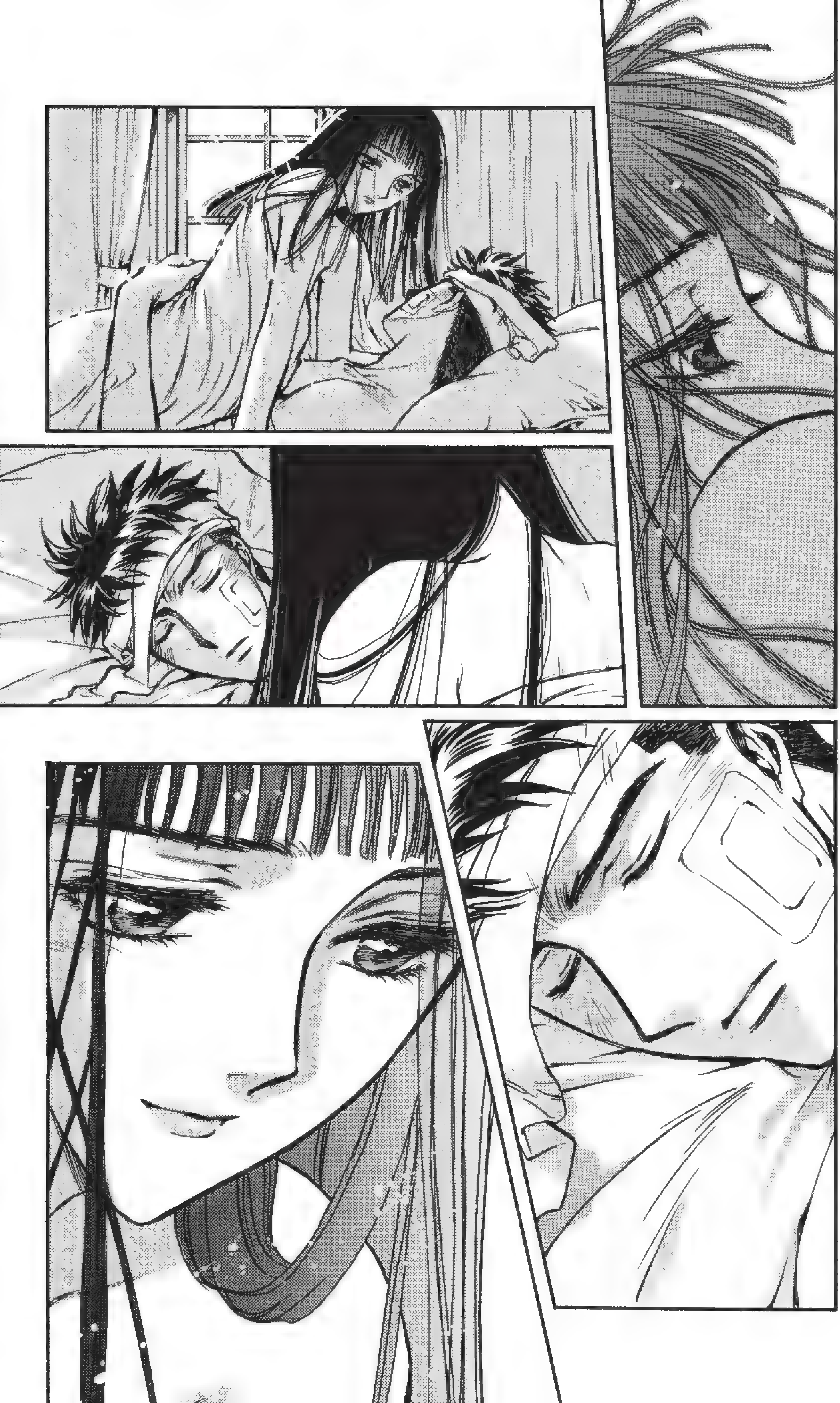

I can only hope...
...that they notice before then.
I must pray that they see the truth in time to stop her.
AND YET...

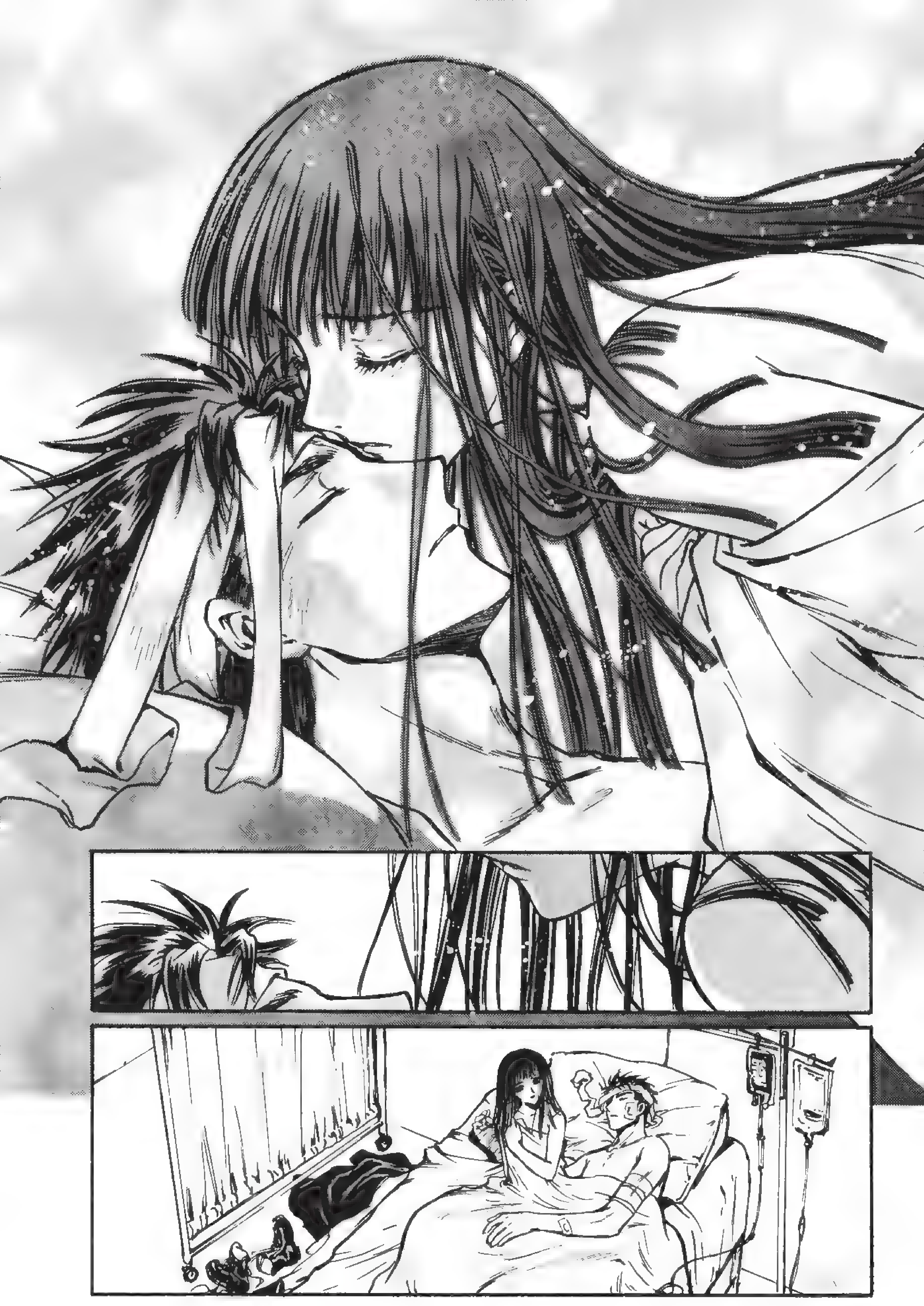

...INEXORABLY...
...THE FUTURE YOU SAW IN YOUR DREAMS IS DRAWING CLOSER.

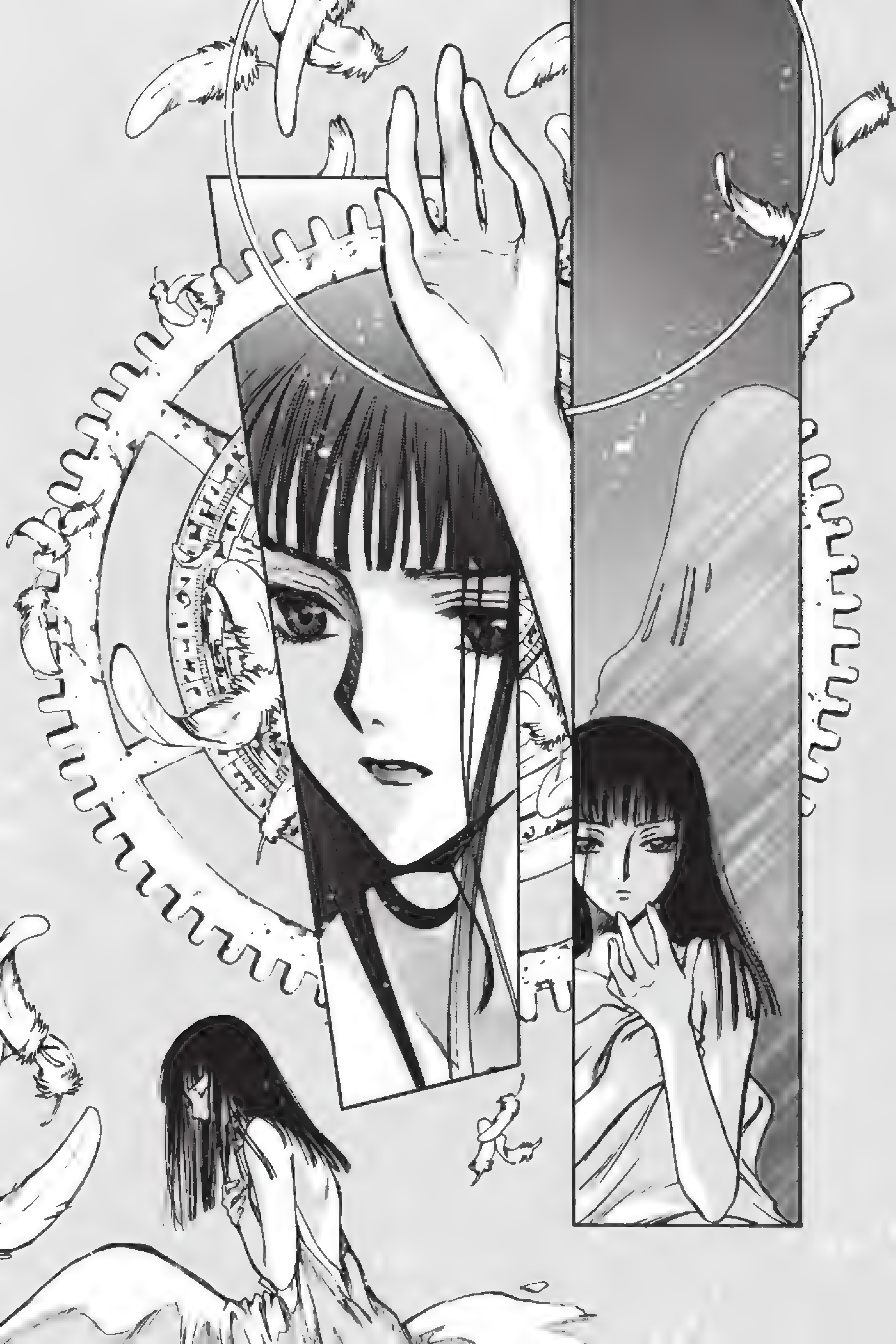

A DRAGON OF EARTH IS GONE.
HOW-EVER ---
SPLASH
...HIS SEAT HAS BEEN FILLED BY THE ONE WHO INHERITED HIS POWER.

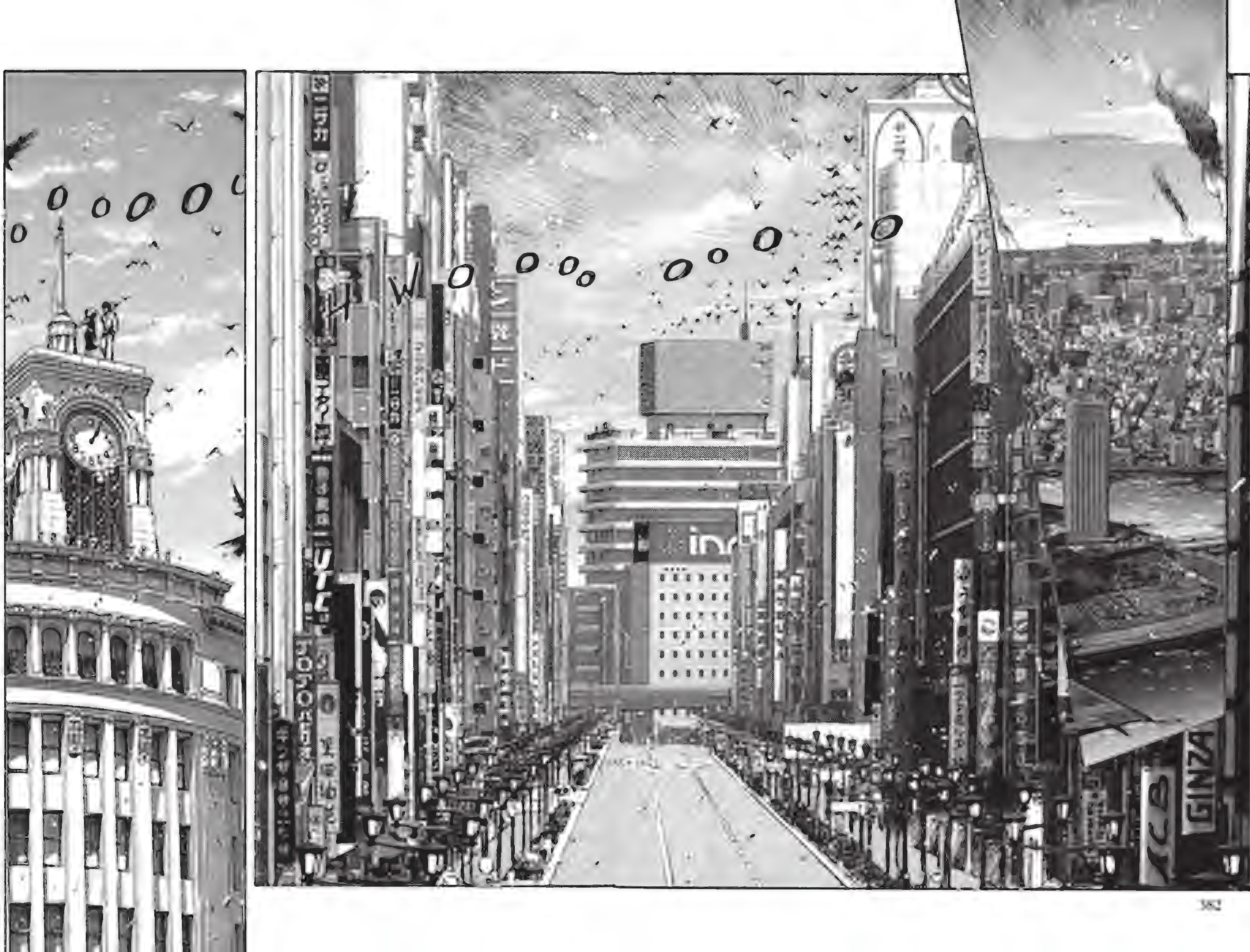

SOON...
... ANOTHER DRAGON OF EARTH WILL FALL.
FLIP
AND ANOTHER NEW POWER WILL RISE TO FILL THE VOID.
SWASH

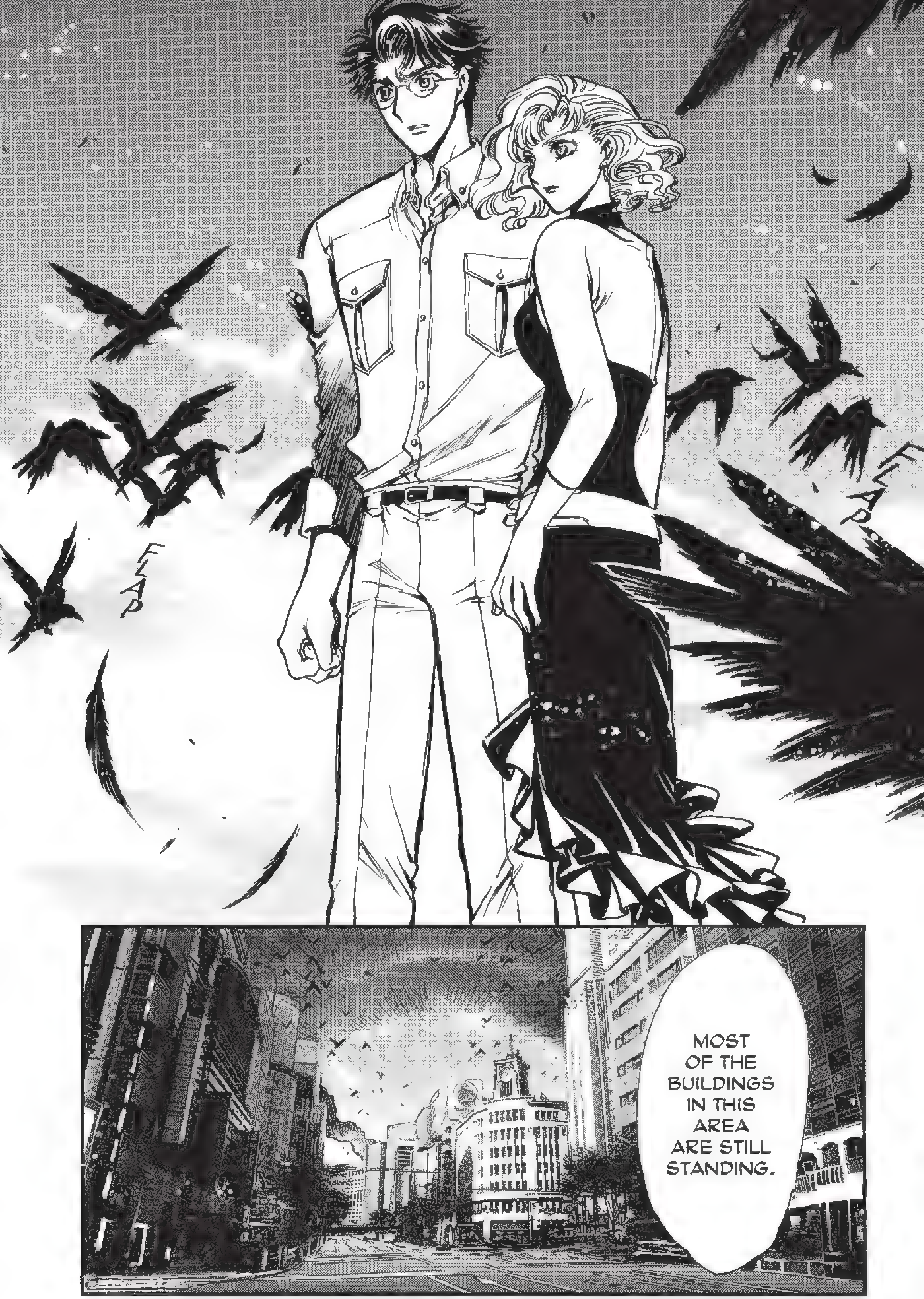


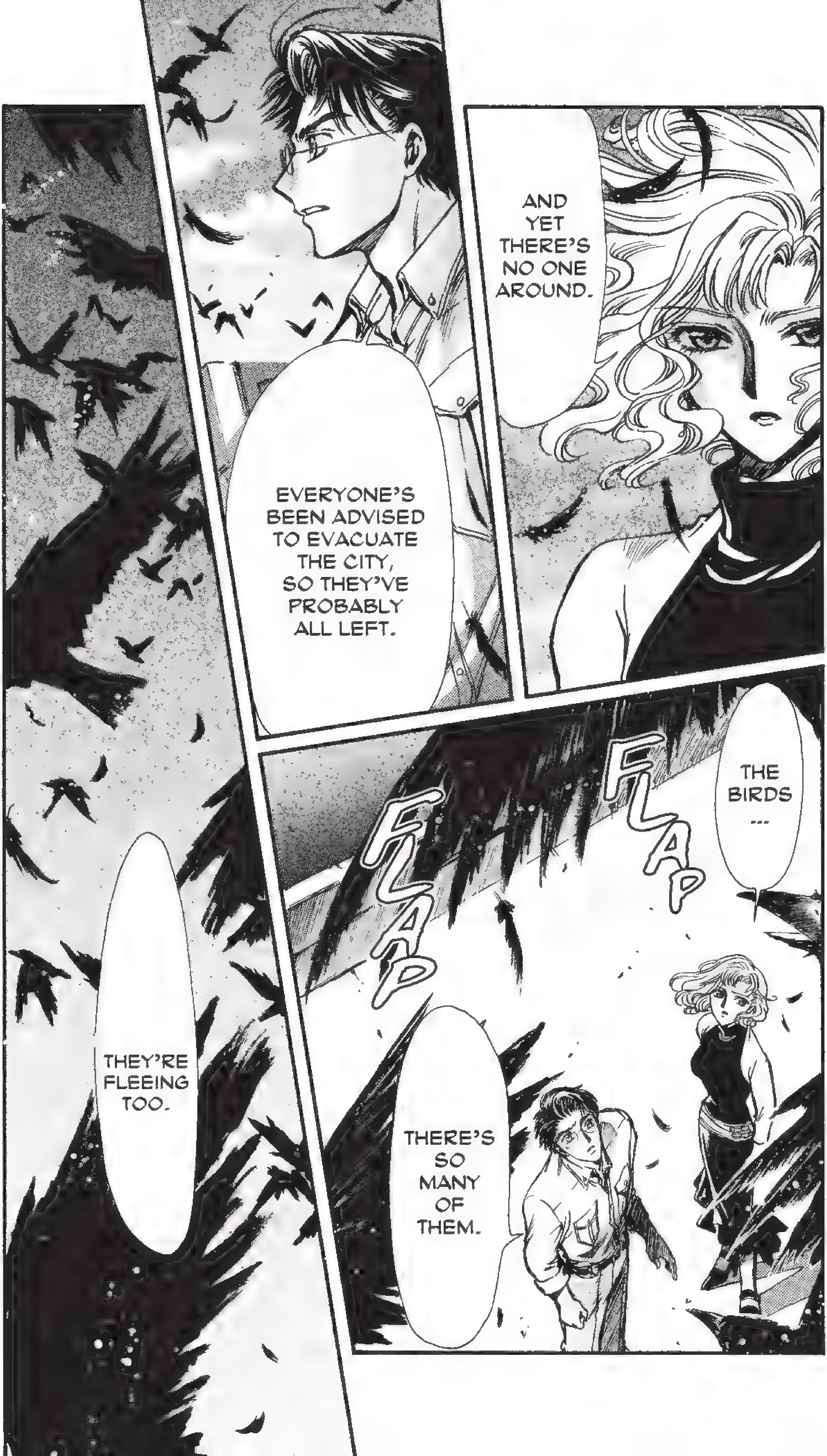


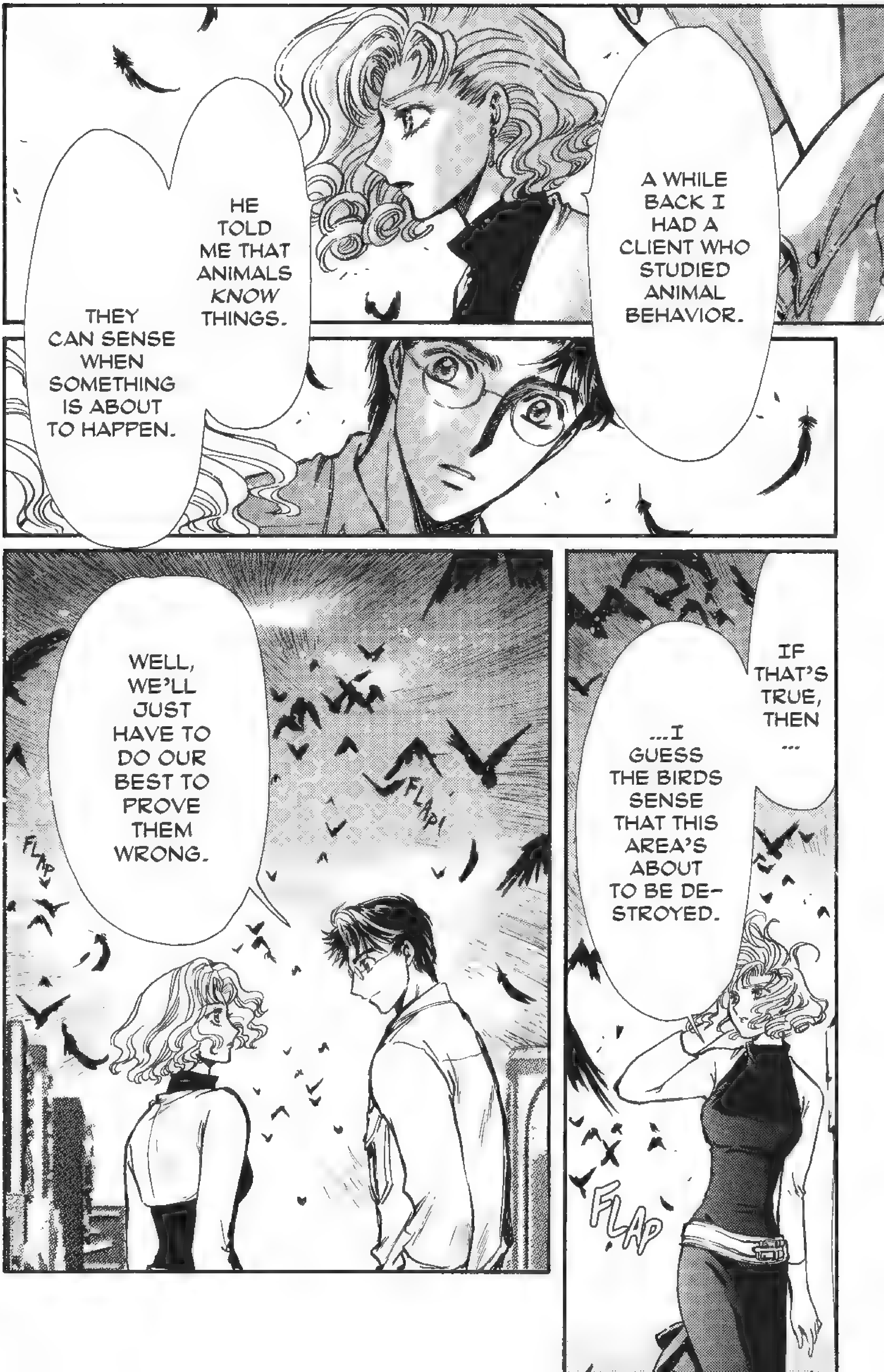


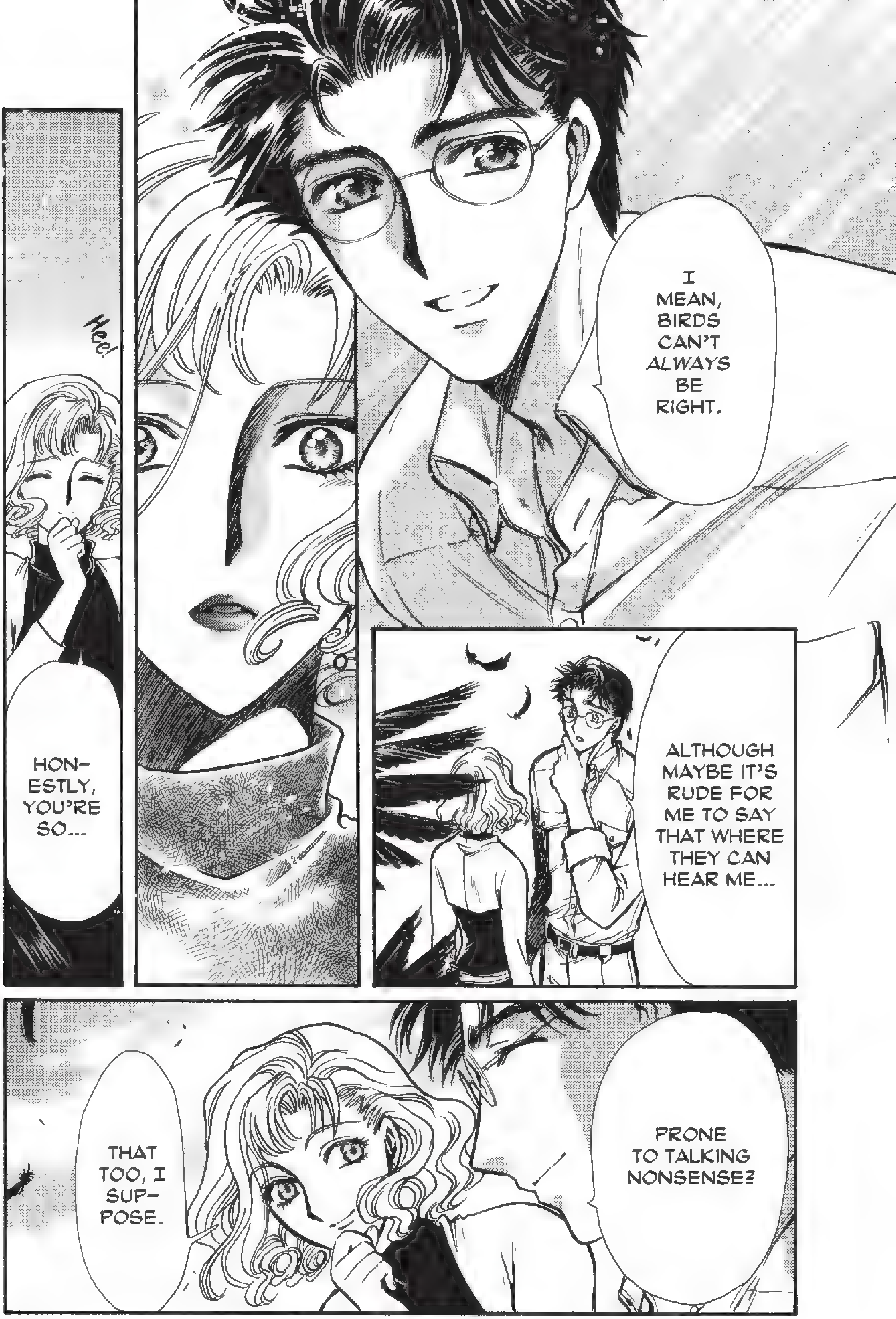


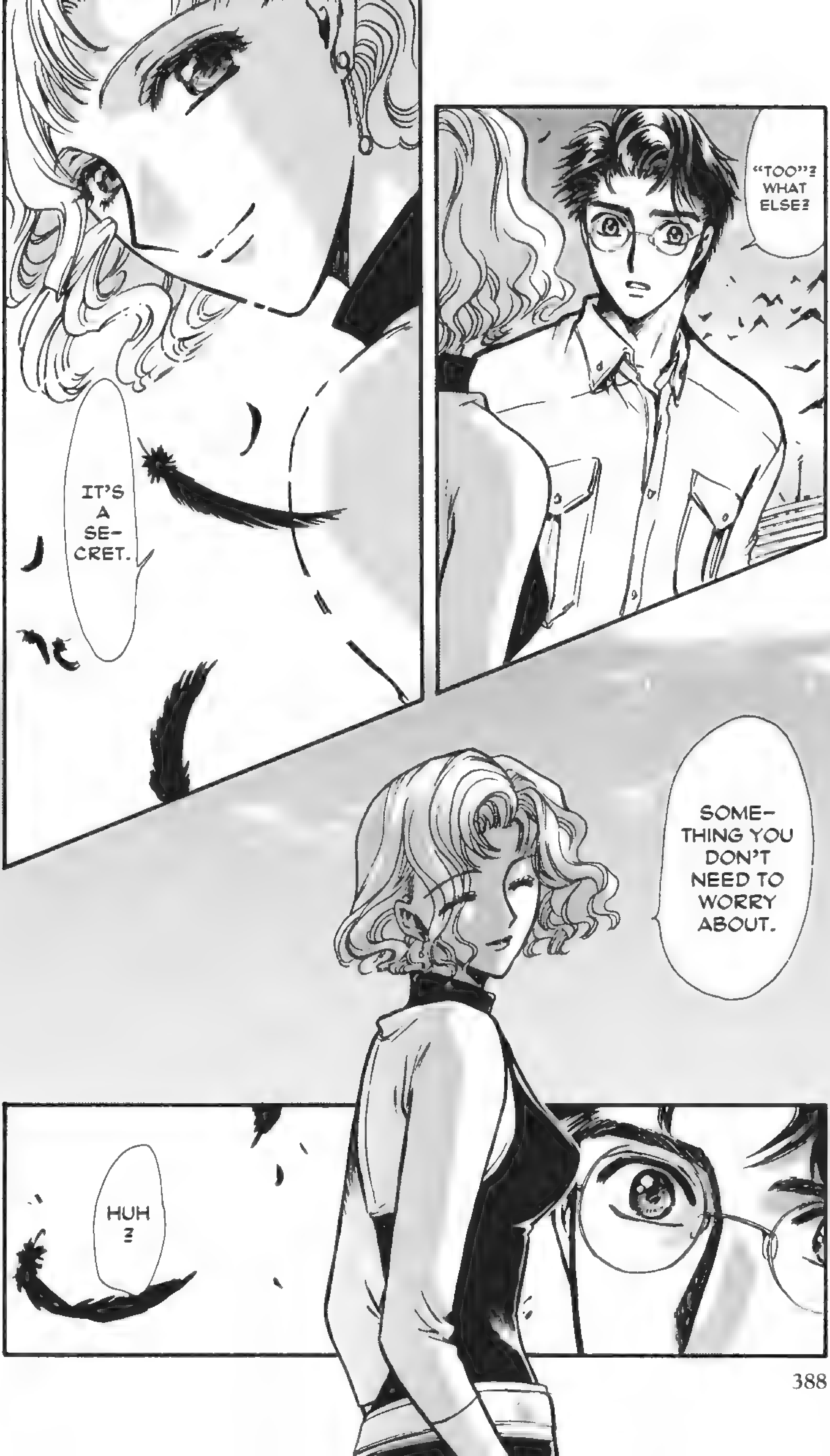

oOoOOO
HWOOOooOoOO
GINZA
JCB

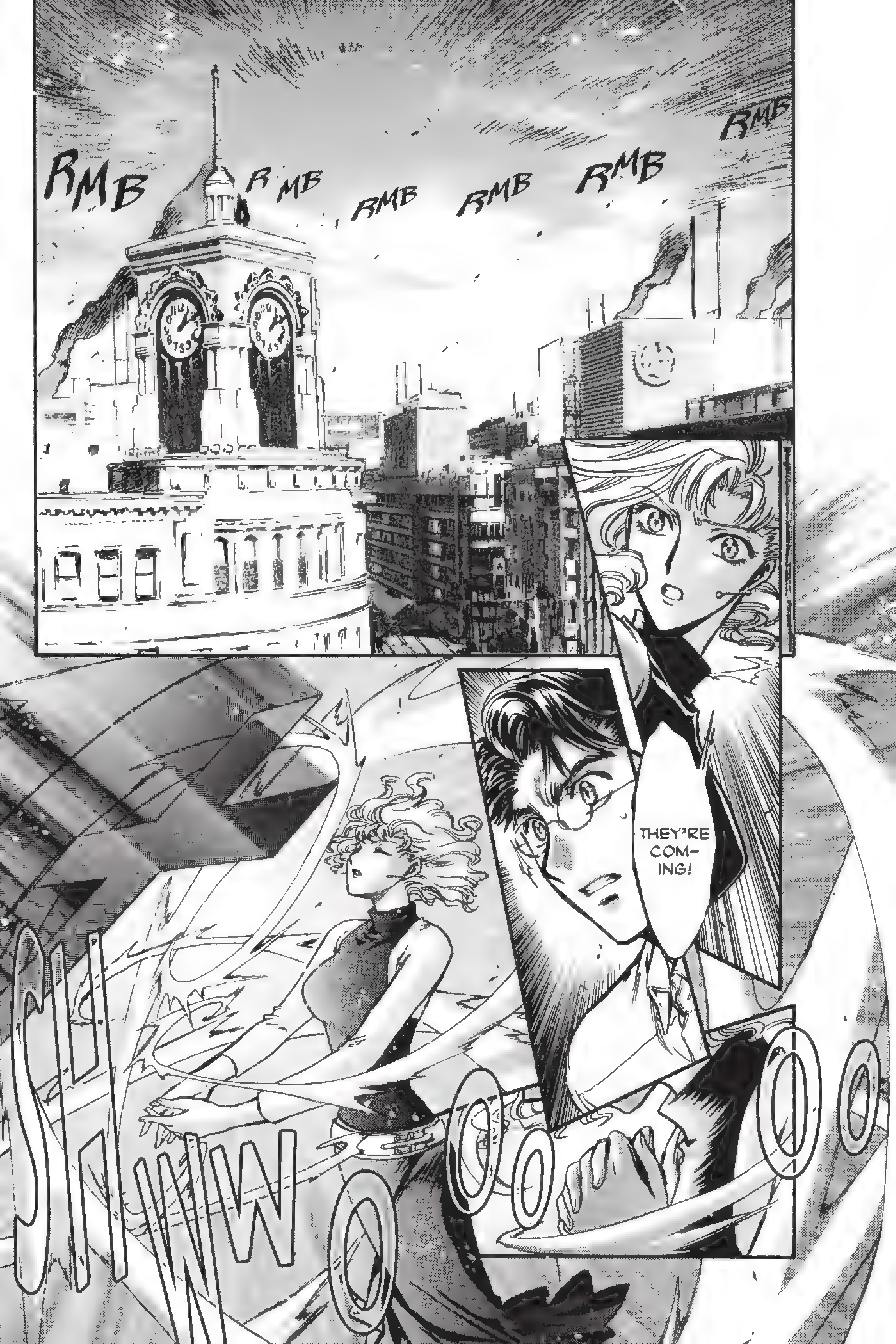

FLAP
FLAP
MOST OF THE BUILDINGS IN THIS AREA ARE STILL STANDING.

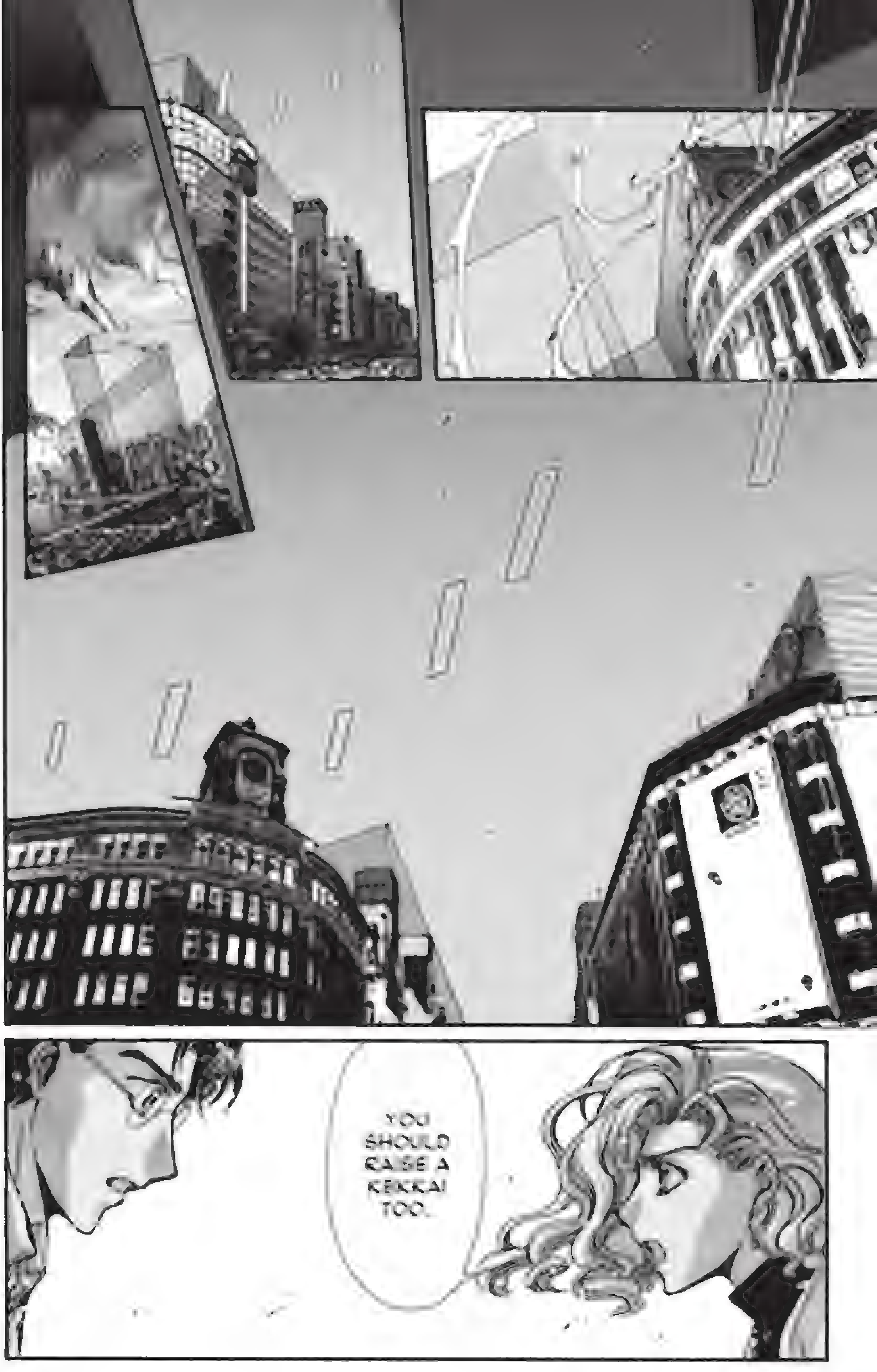

AND YET THERE'S NO ONE AROUND.
EVERYONE'S BEEN ADVISED TO EVACUATE THE CITY, SO THEY'VE PROBABLY ALL LEFT.
THE BIRDS ...
FLAP
FLAP
THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM.
THEY'RE FLEEING TOO.

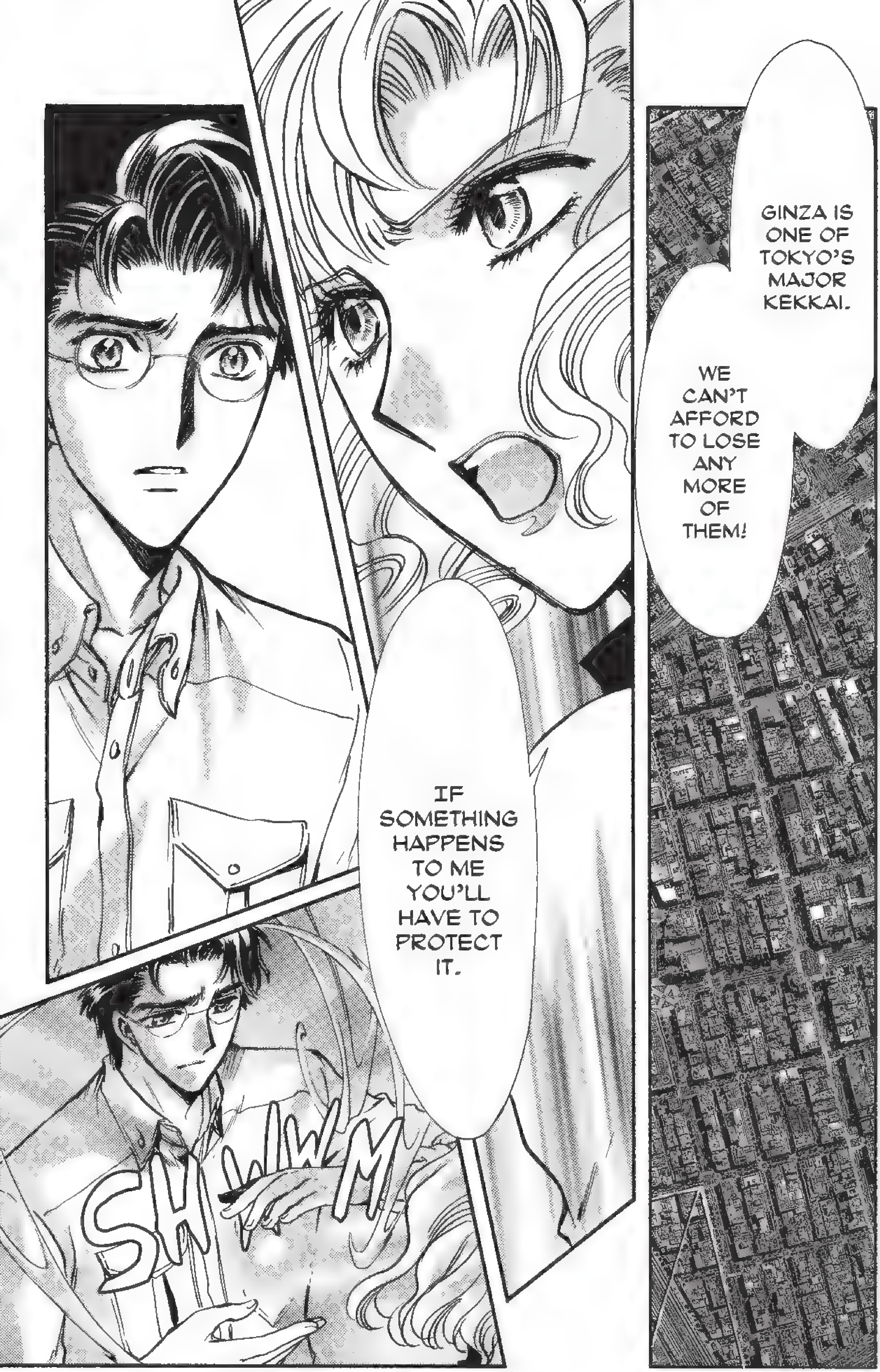

A WHILE BACK I HAD A CLIENT WHO STUDIED ANIMAL BEHAVIOR.
HE TOLD ME THAT ANIMALS *KNOW* THINGS.
THEY CAN SENSE WHEN SOMETHING IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN ...
...I GUESS THE BIRDS SENSE THAT THIS AREA'S ABOUT TO BE DESTROYED.
FLAP
WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DO OUR BEST TO PROVE THEM WRONG.
FLAP!
FLAP

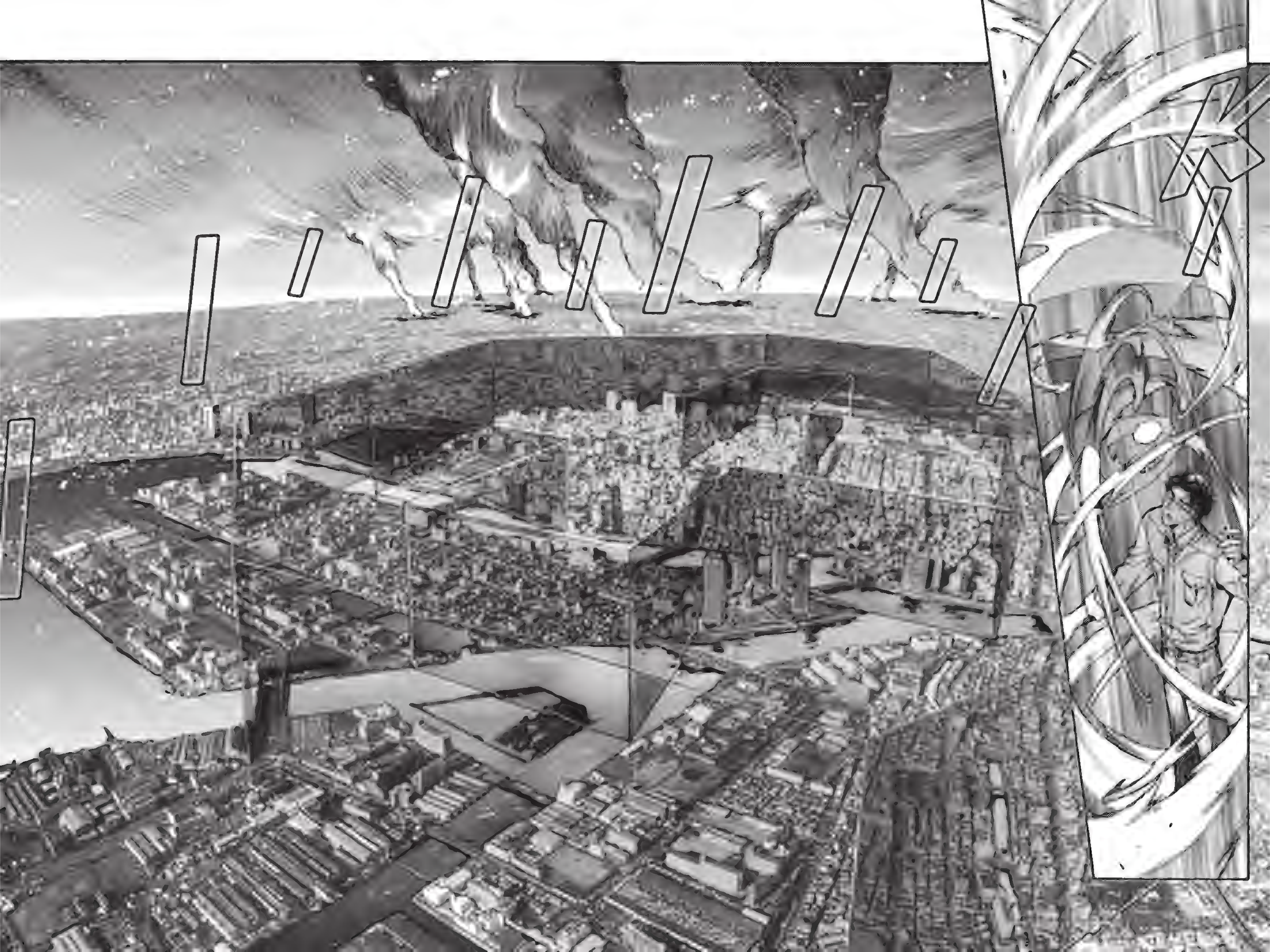

I MEAN, BIRDS CAN'T *ALWAYS* BE RIGHT.
ALTHOUGH MAYBE IT'S RUDE FOR ME TO SAY THAT WHERE THEY CAN HEAR ME...
Hee!
HONESTLY, YOU'RE SO...
PRONE TO TALKING NONSENSE?
THAT TOO, I SUPPOSE.

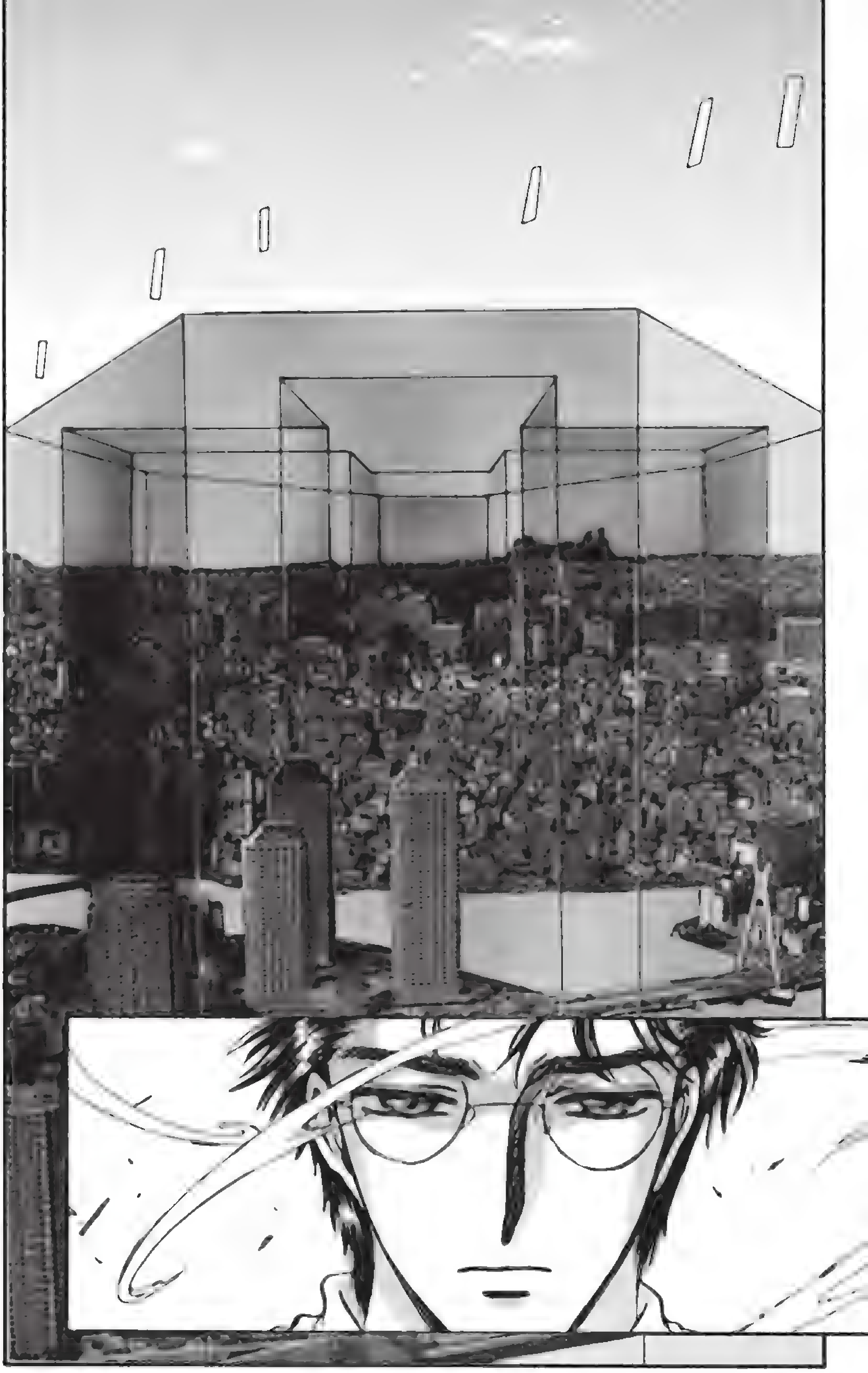

"TOO"? WHAT ELSE?
IT'S A SECRET.
SOMETHING YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT.
HUH?

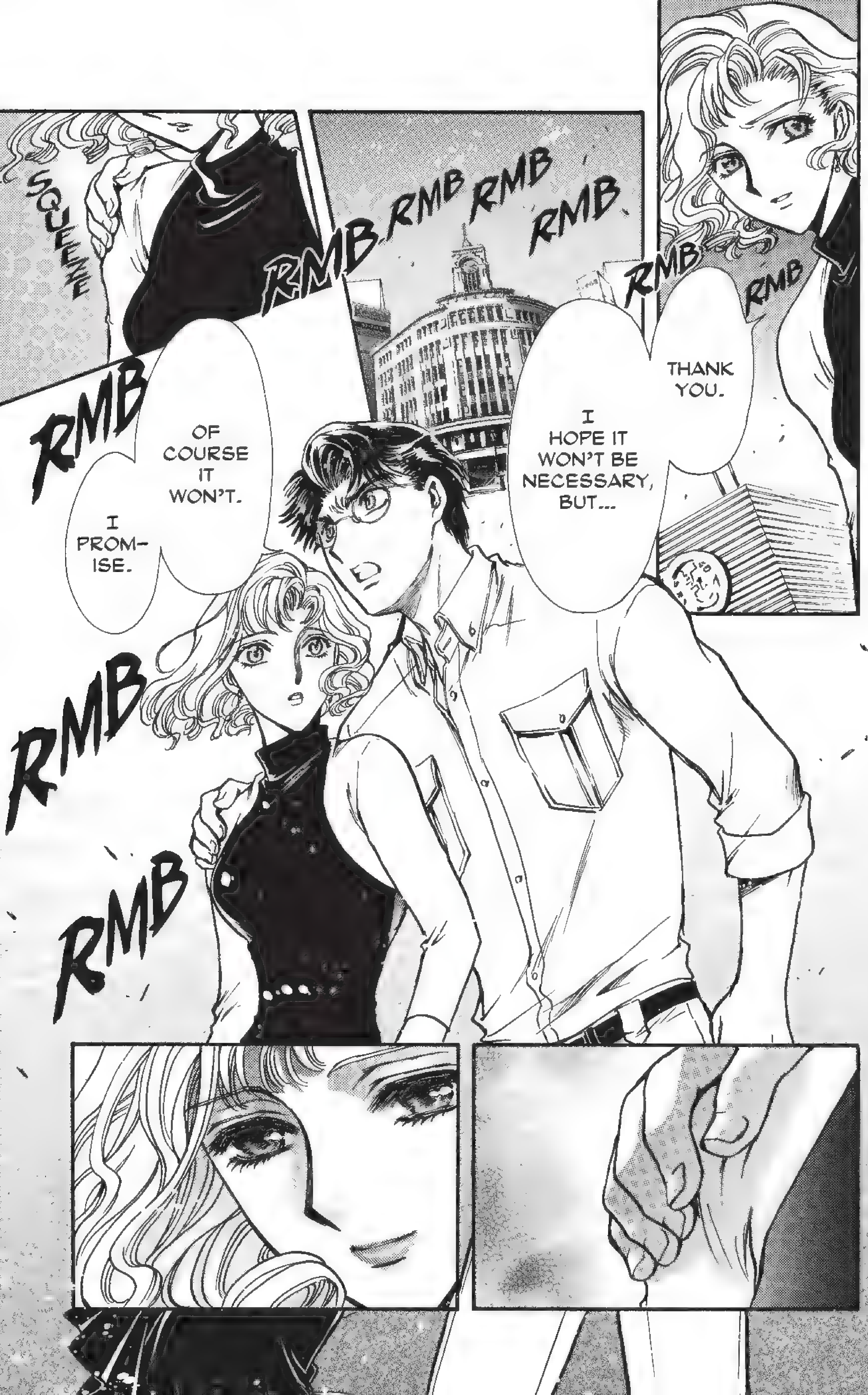

RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
THEY'RE COMING!
SHWWOOOOOO

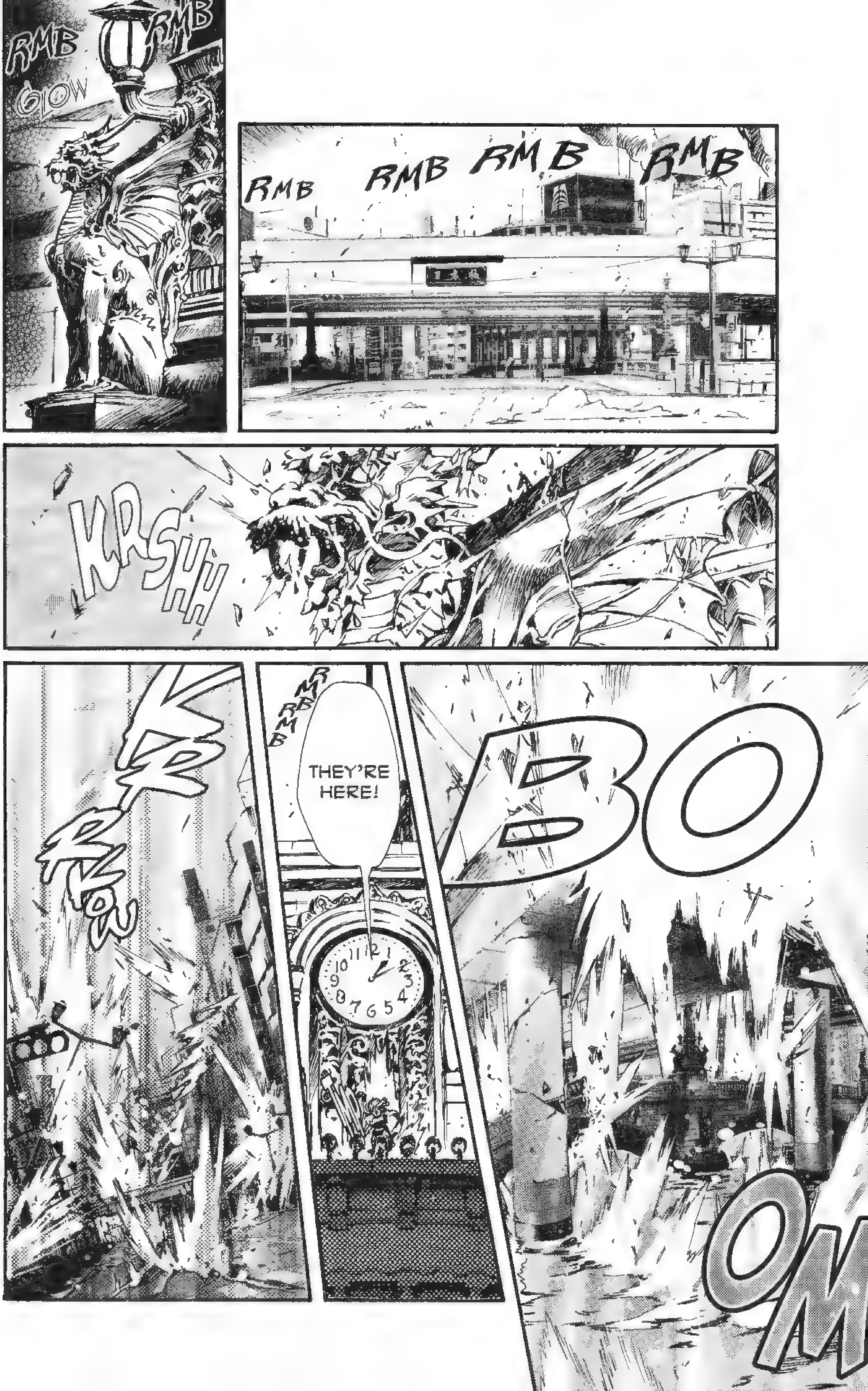

YOU SHOULD RAISE A KEKKAI TOO.

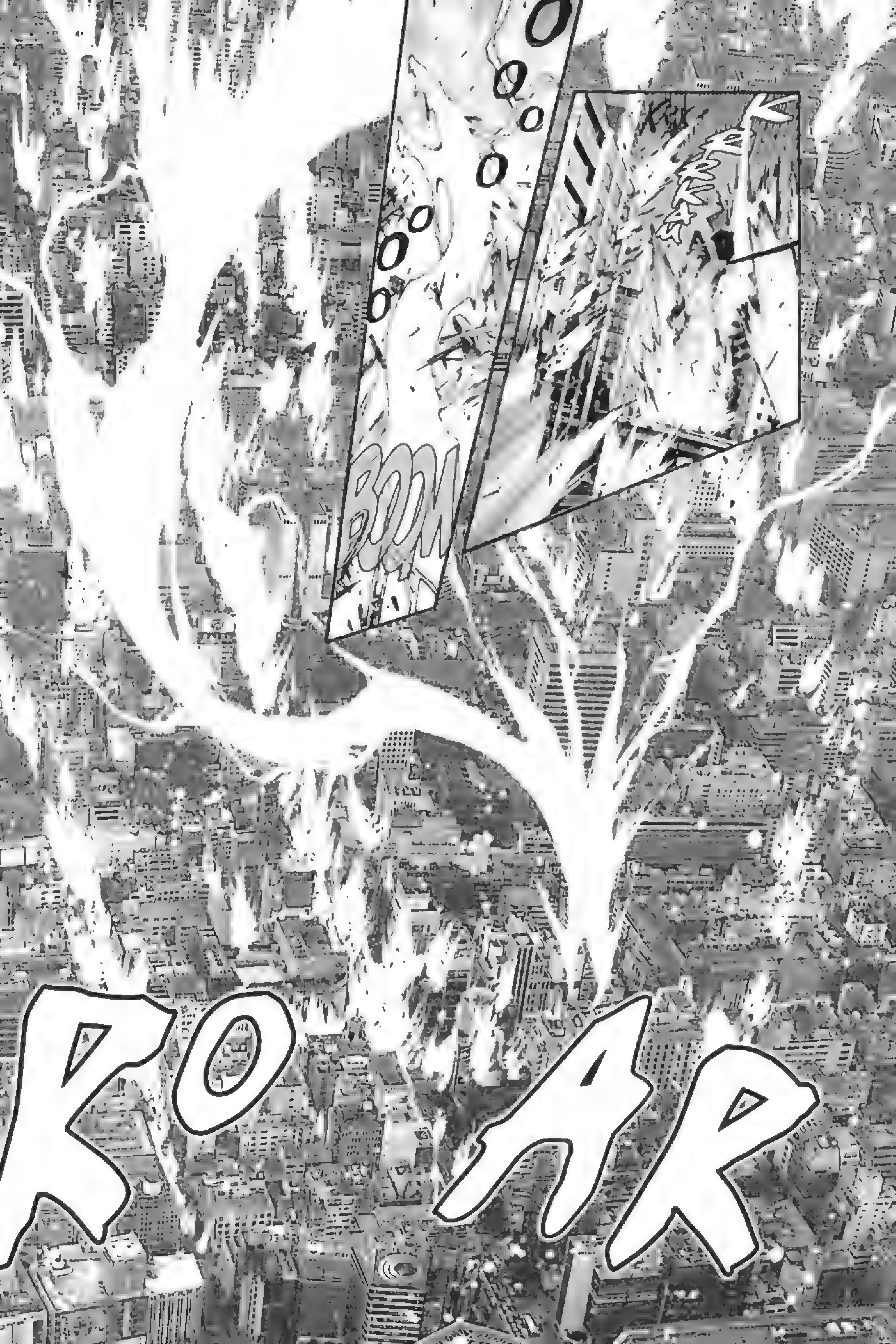

GINZA IS ONE OF TOKYO'S MAJOR KEKKAI.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE ANY MORE OF THEM!
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME YOU'LL HAVE TO PROTECT IT.
SHWWM

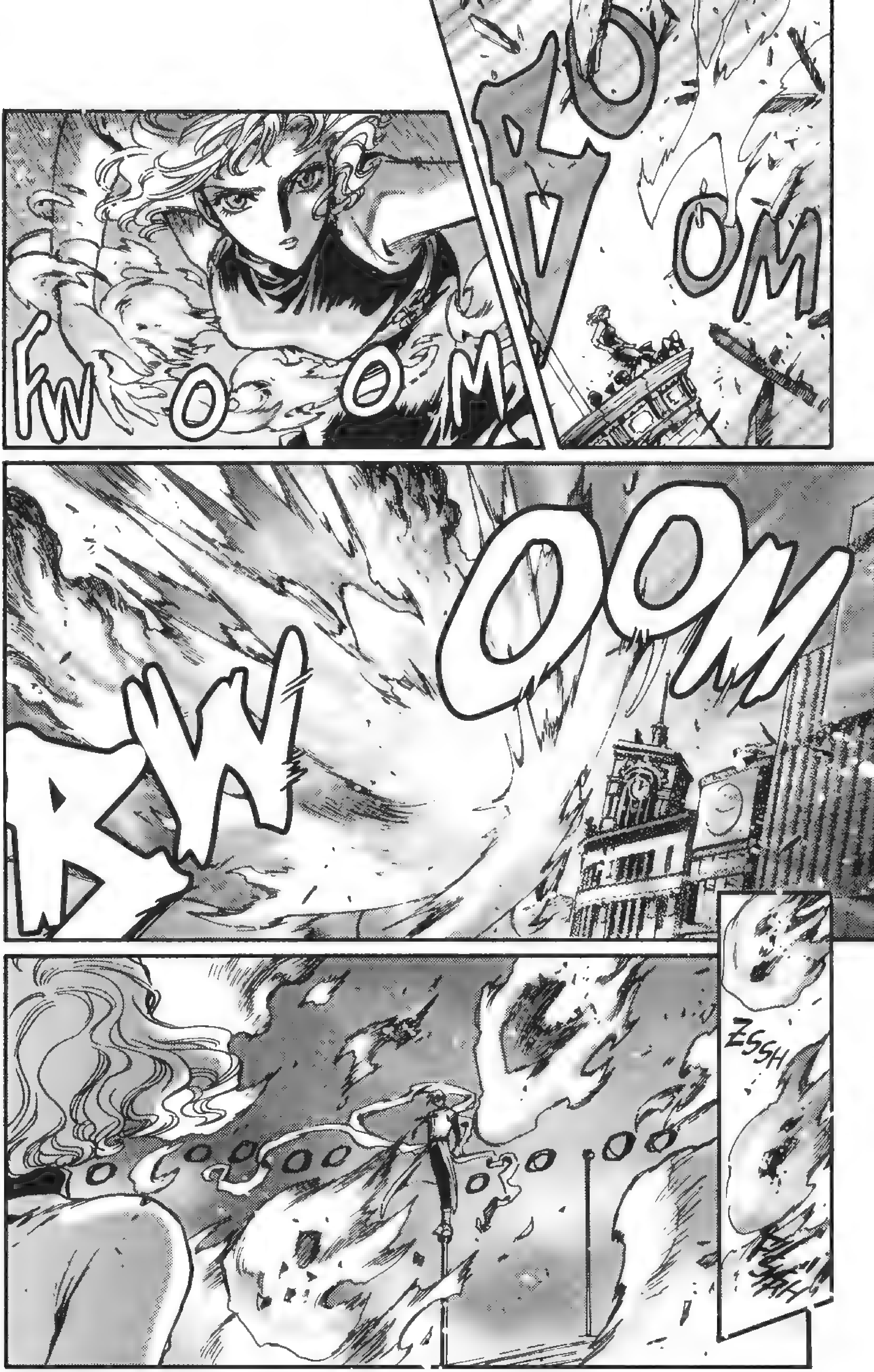


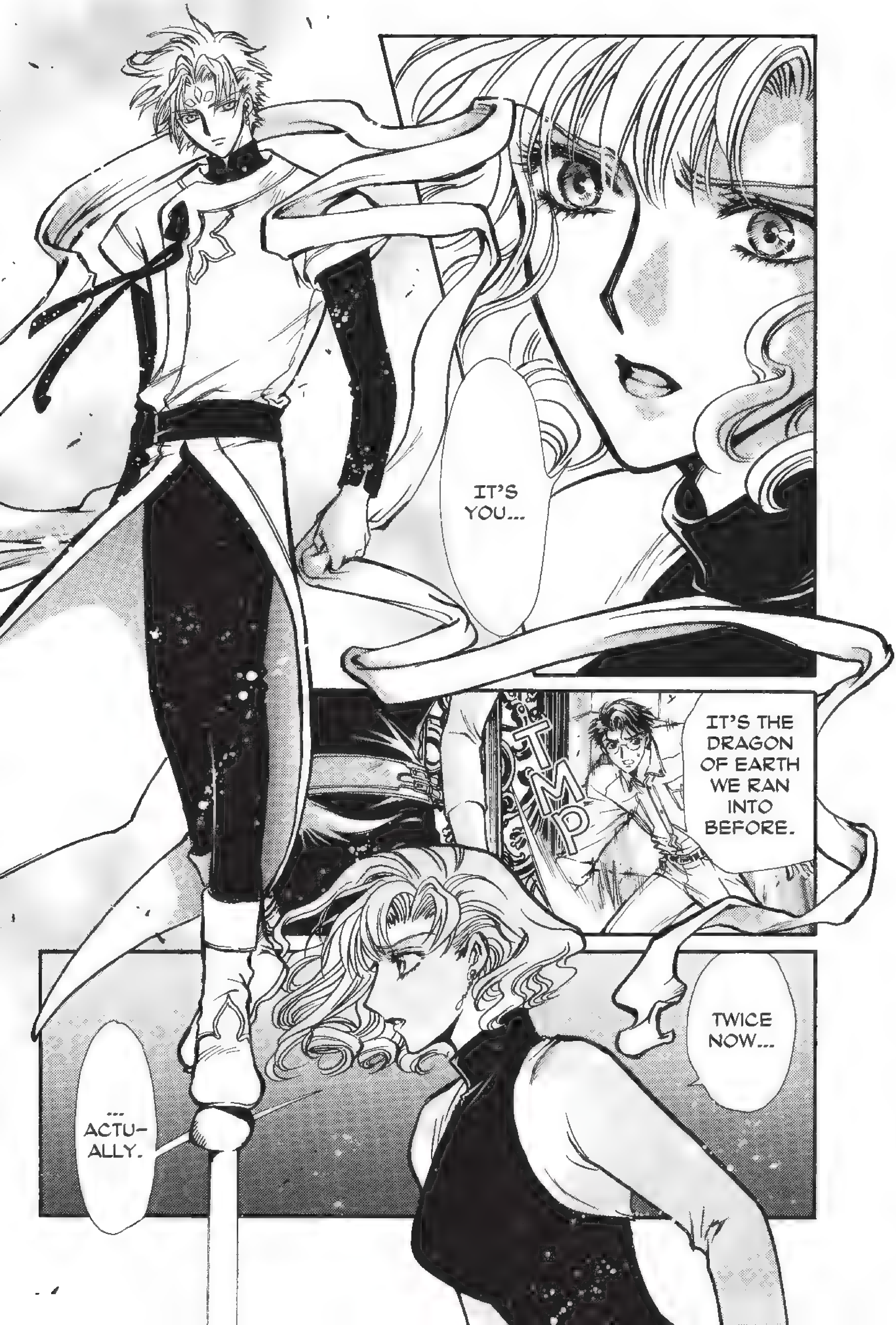


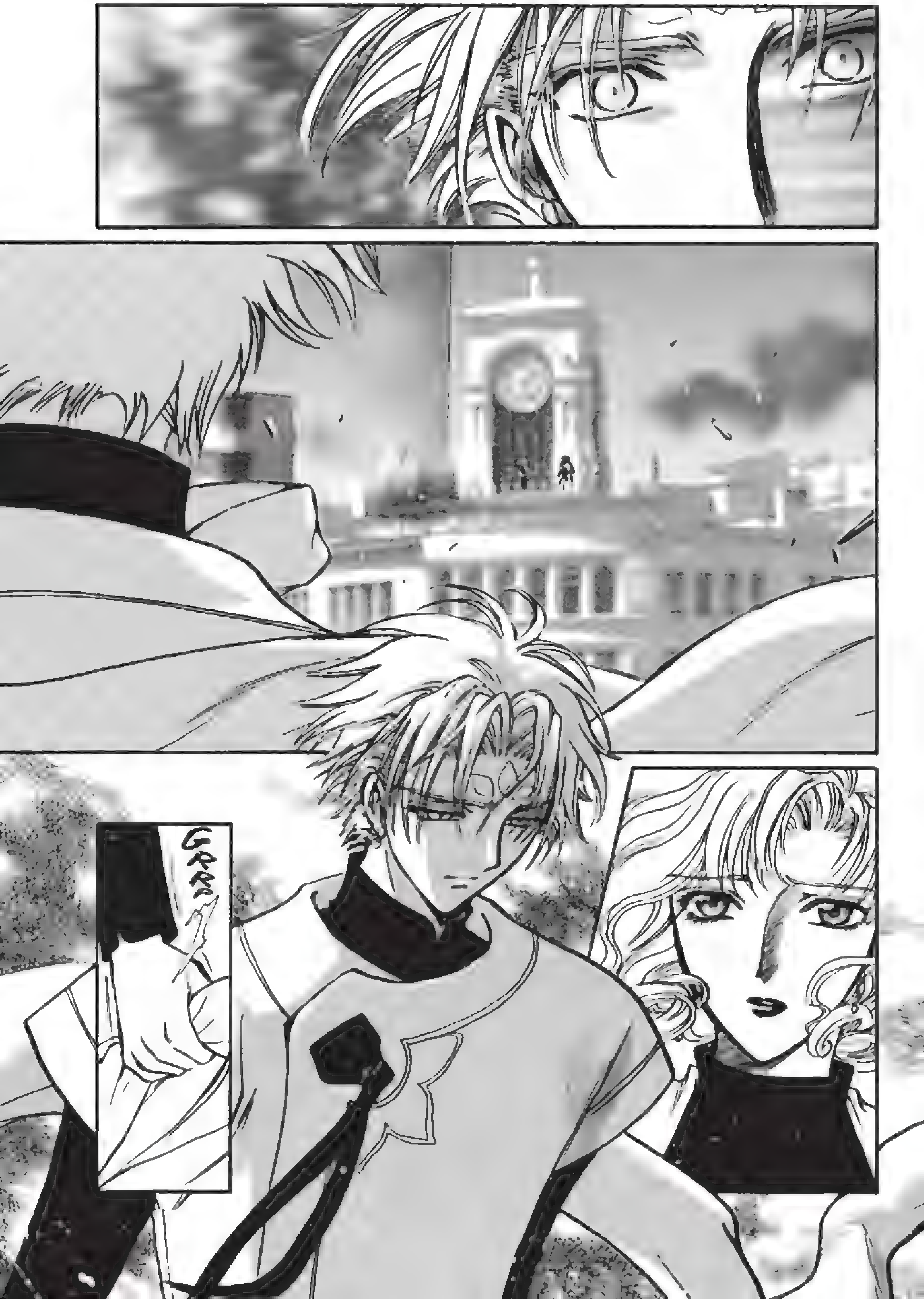

RMB
RMB
THANK YOU.
I HOPE IT WON'T BE NECESSARY, BUT...
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
SQUEEZE
RMB
OF COURSE IT WON'T.
I PROMISE.
RMB
RMB

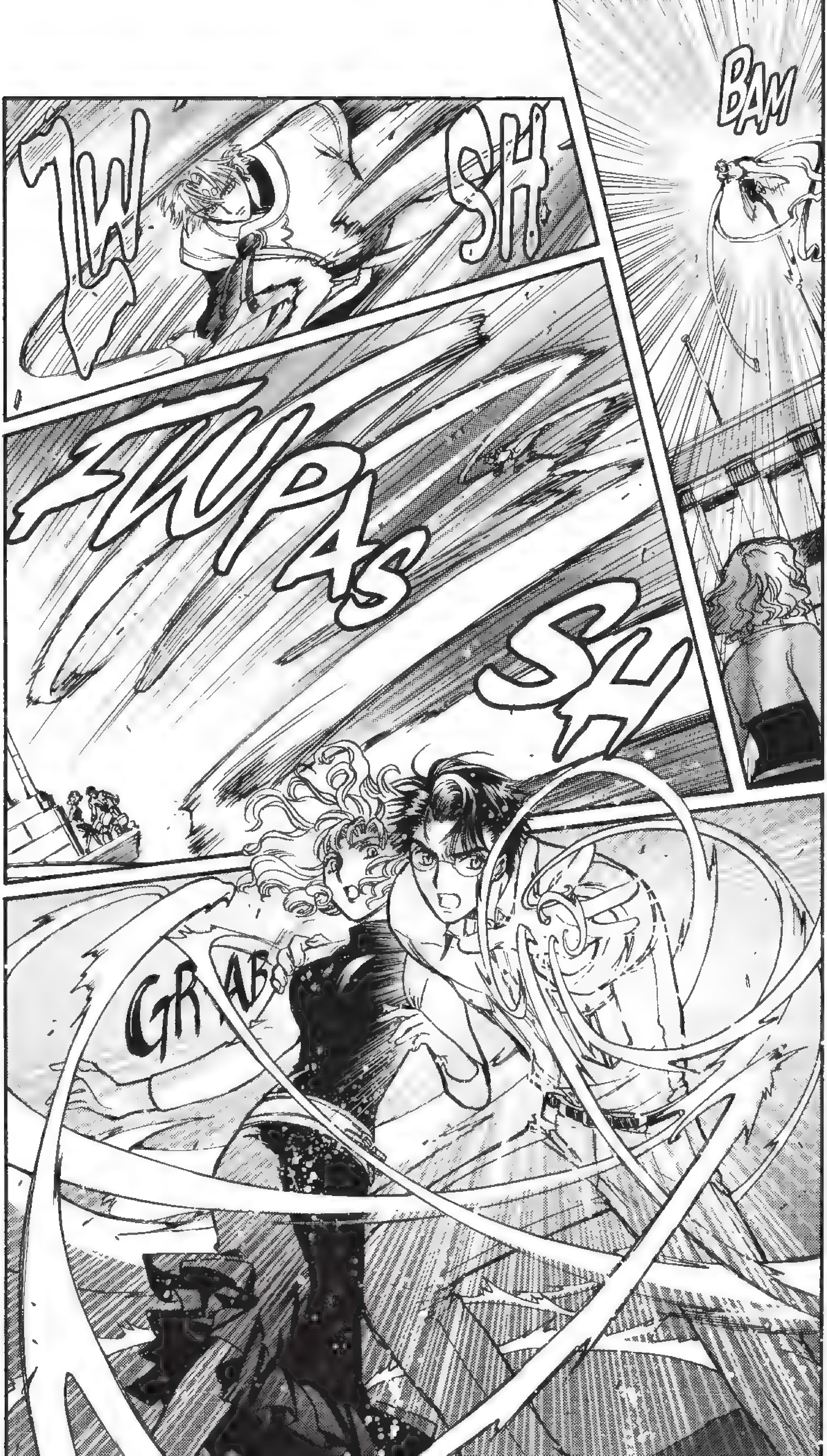

RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
GLOW
KRSHH
BOOM
RMB
RMB
THEY'RE HERE!
KRRKOW

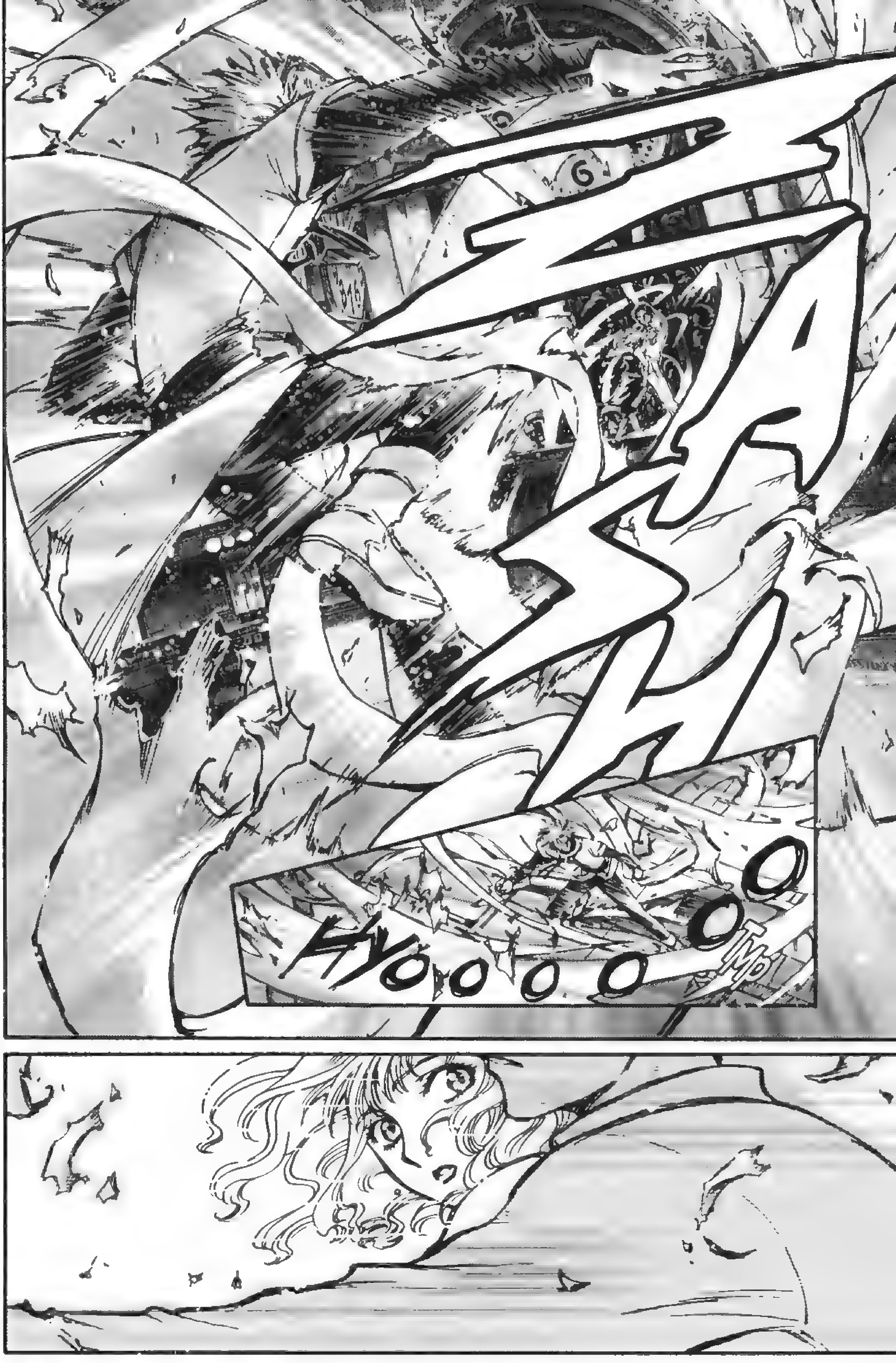

KRK
BOOM
ROAR

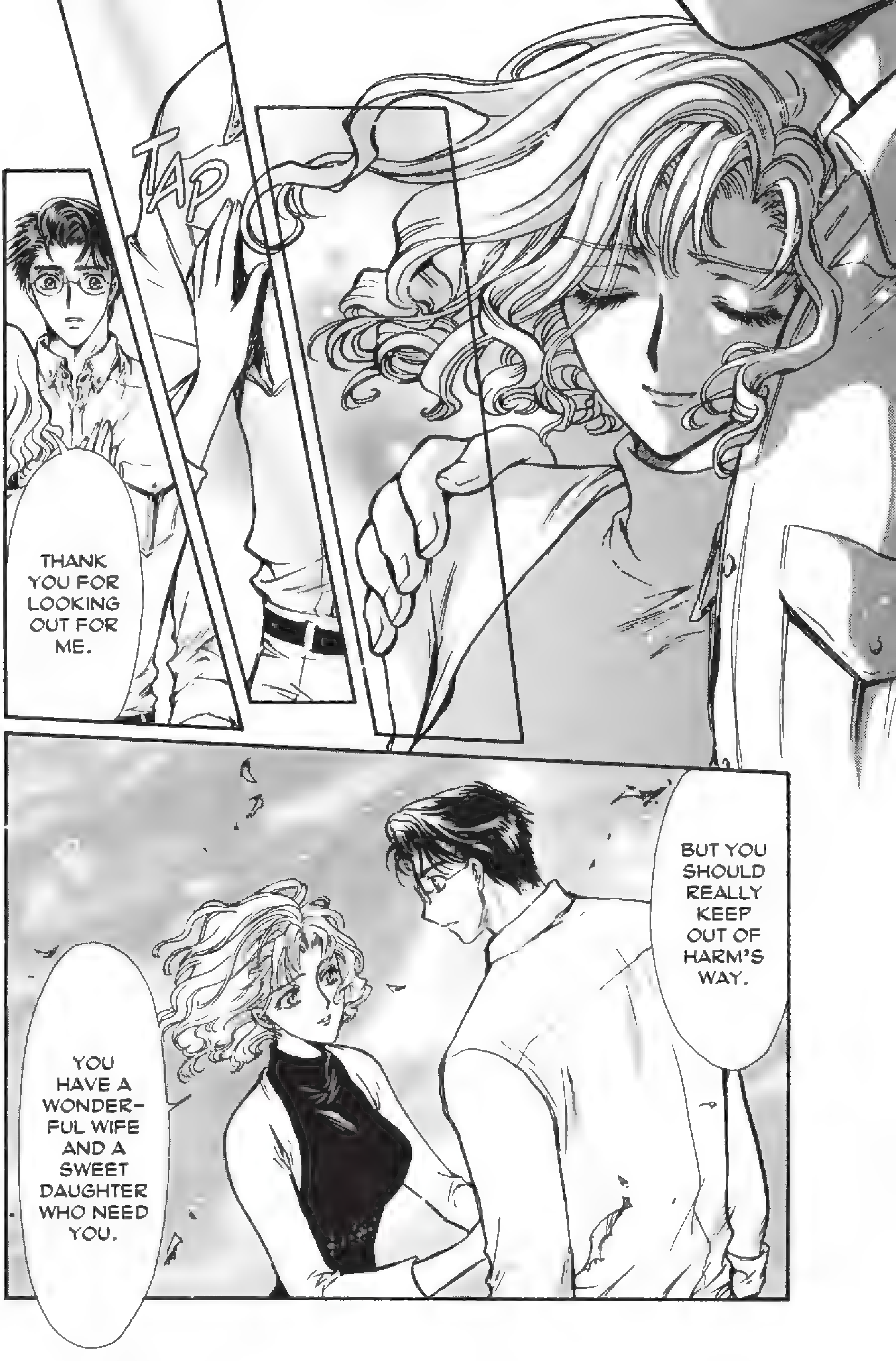

BOOM
FWOOOM
BWOOM
OOOOOOOOO
ZSSH

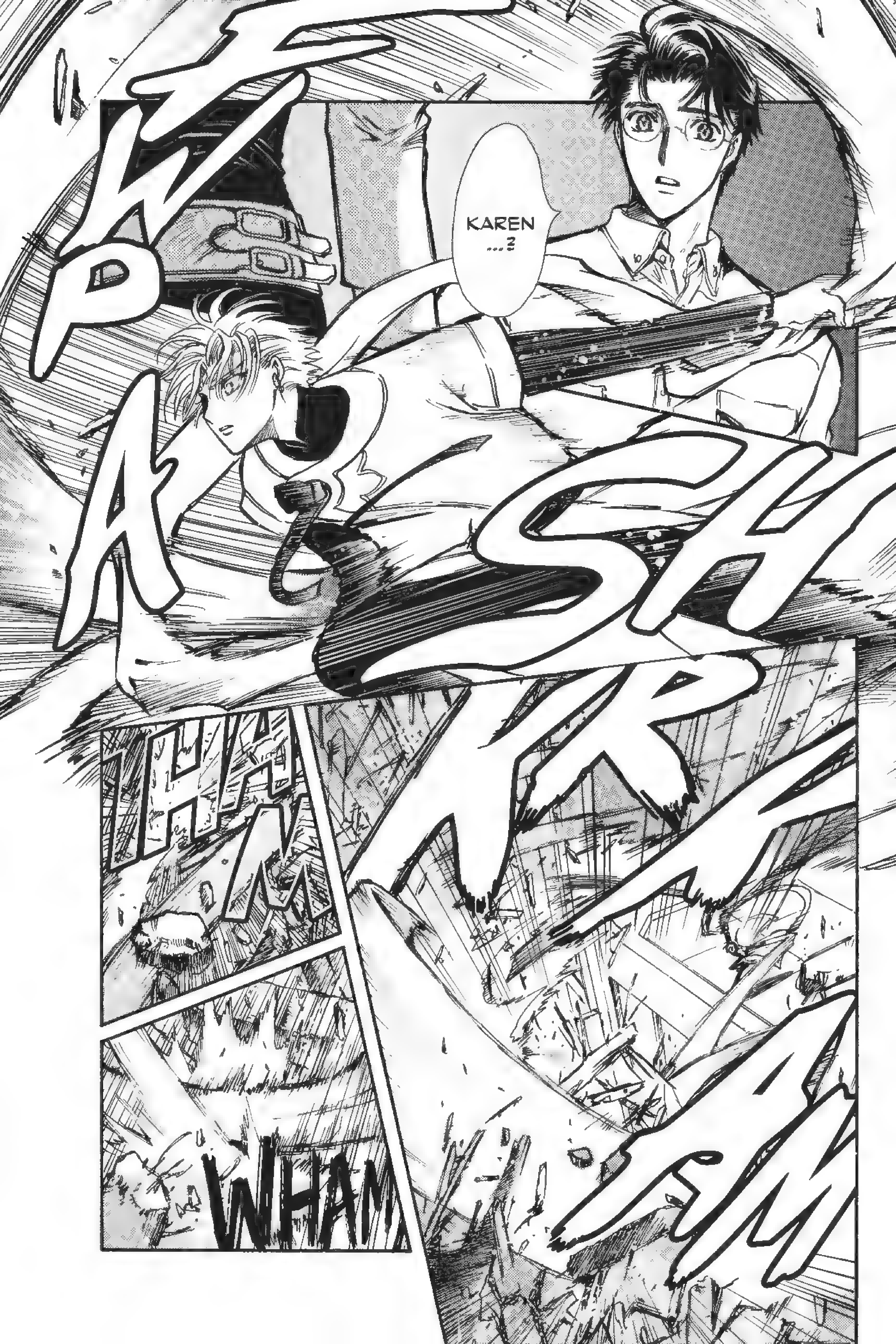

IT'S YOU...
IT'S THE DRAGON OF EARTH WE RAN INTO BEFORE.
TMP
TWICE NOW...
...ACTUALLY.

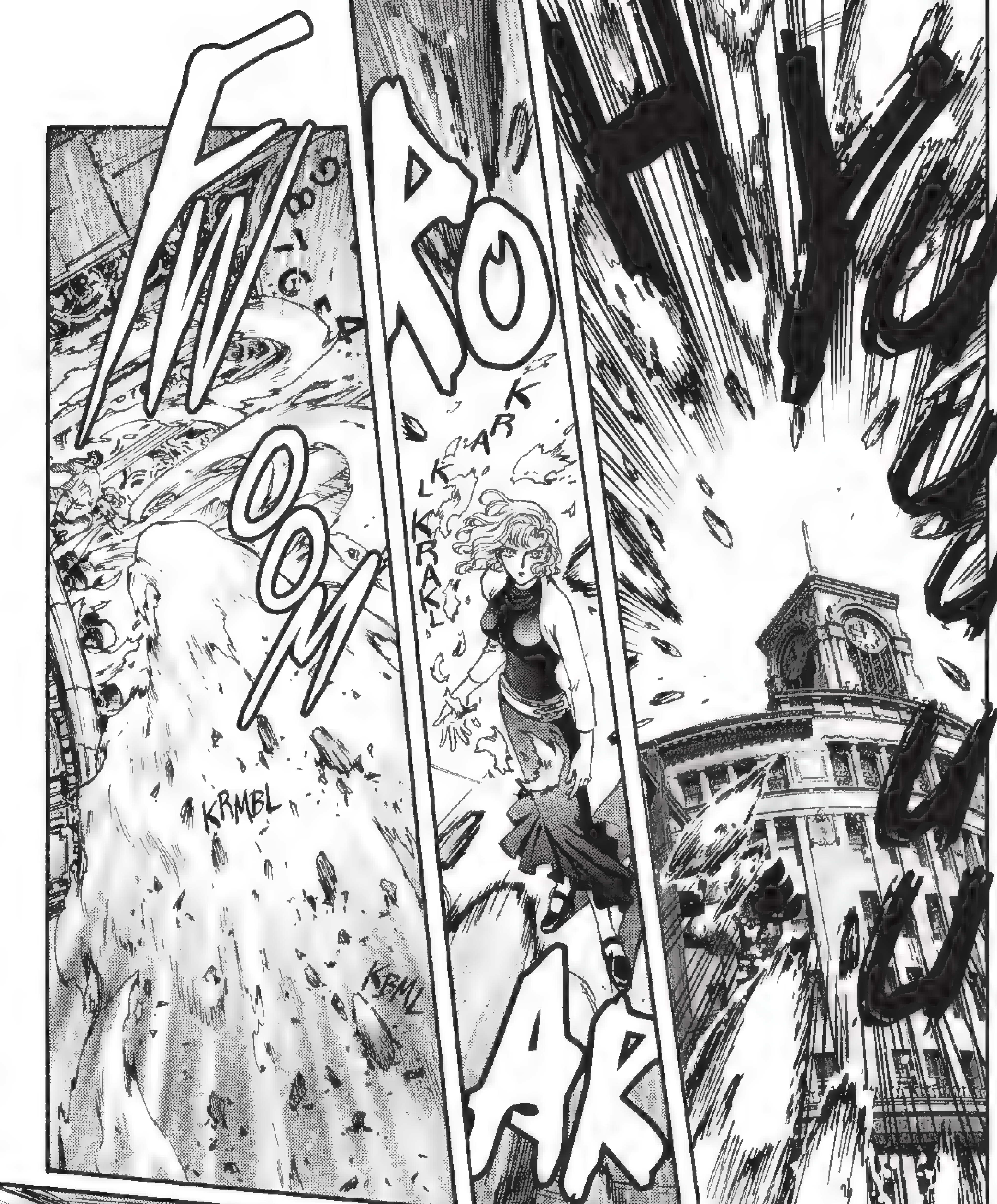

GRRR

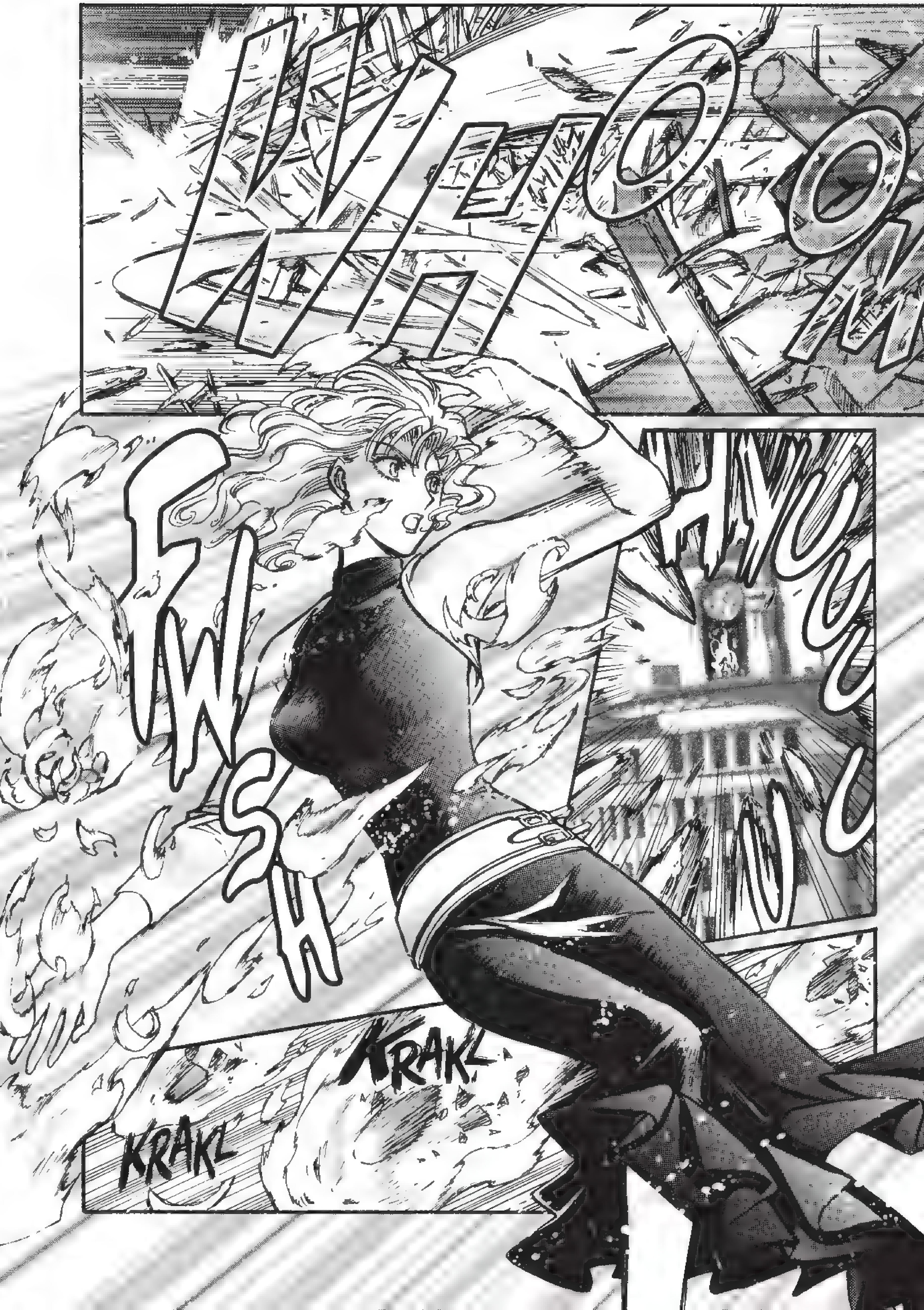

BAM
WSH
FWPAS
SH
GRAB

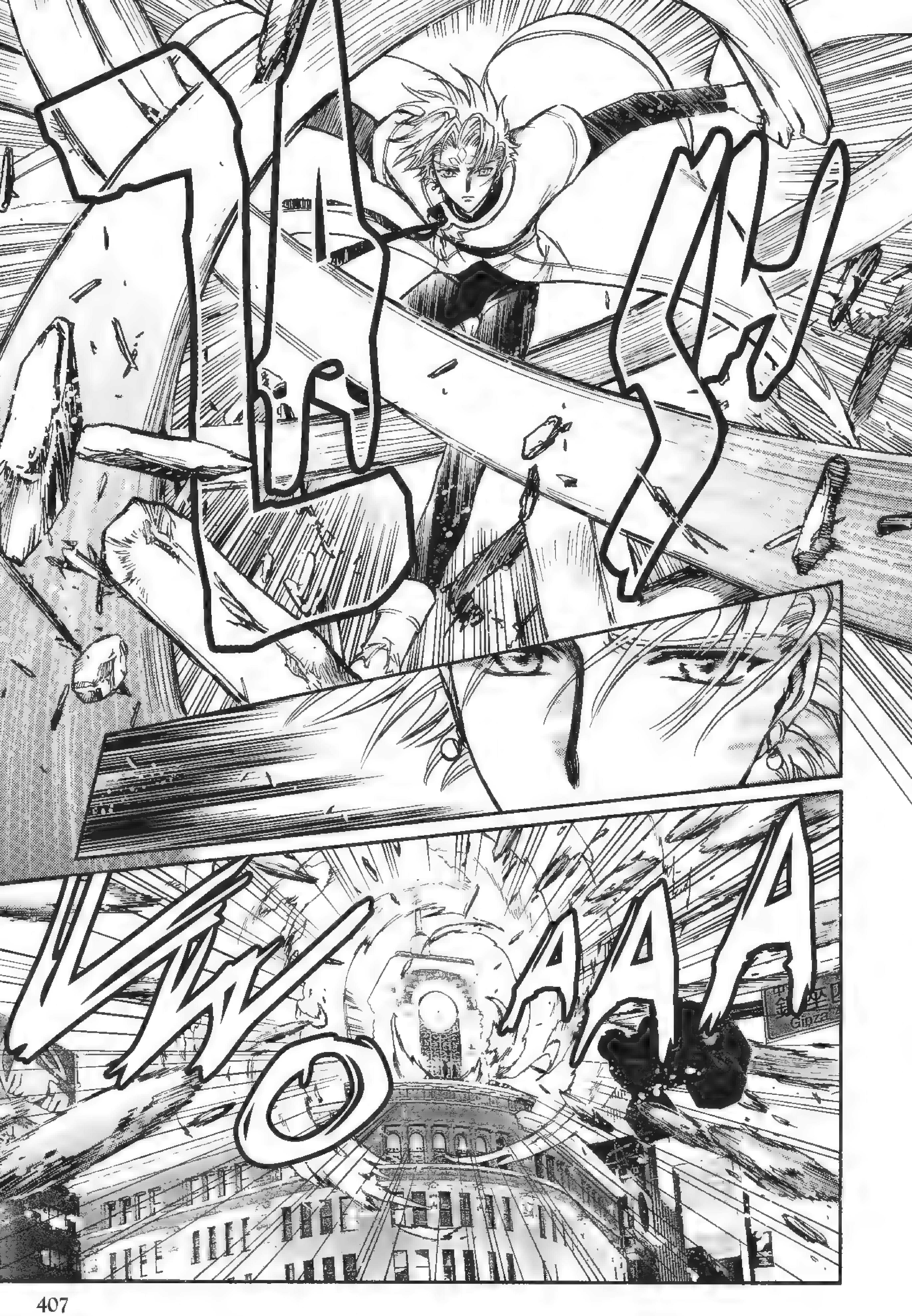

ZASH
KYOOOOOOO
Tmp

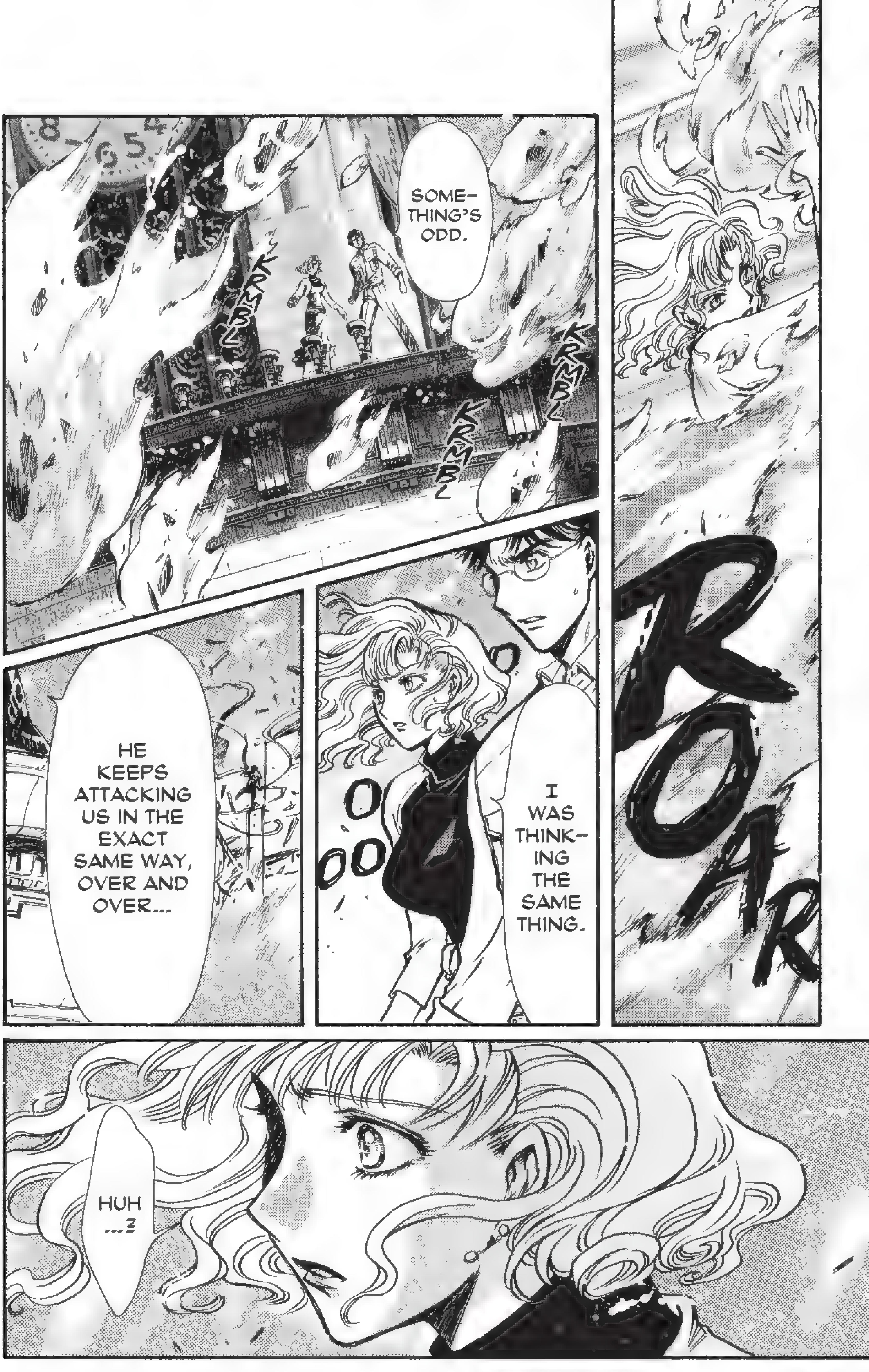

TAP
THANK YOU FOR LOOKING OUT FOR ME.
BUT YOU SHOULD REALLY KEEP OUT OF HARM'S WAY.
YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL WIFE AND A SWEET DAUGHTER WHO NEED YOU.

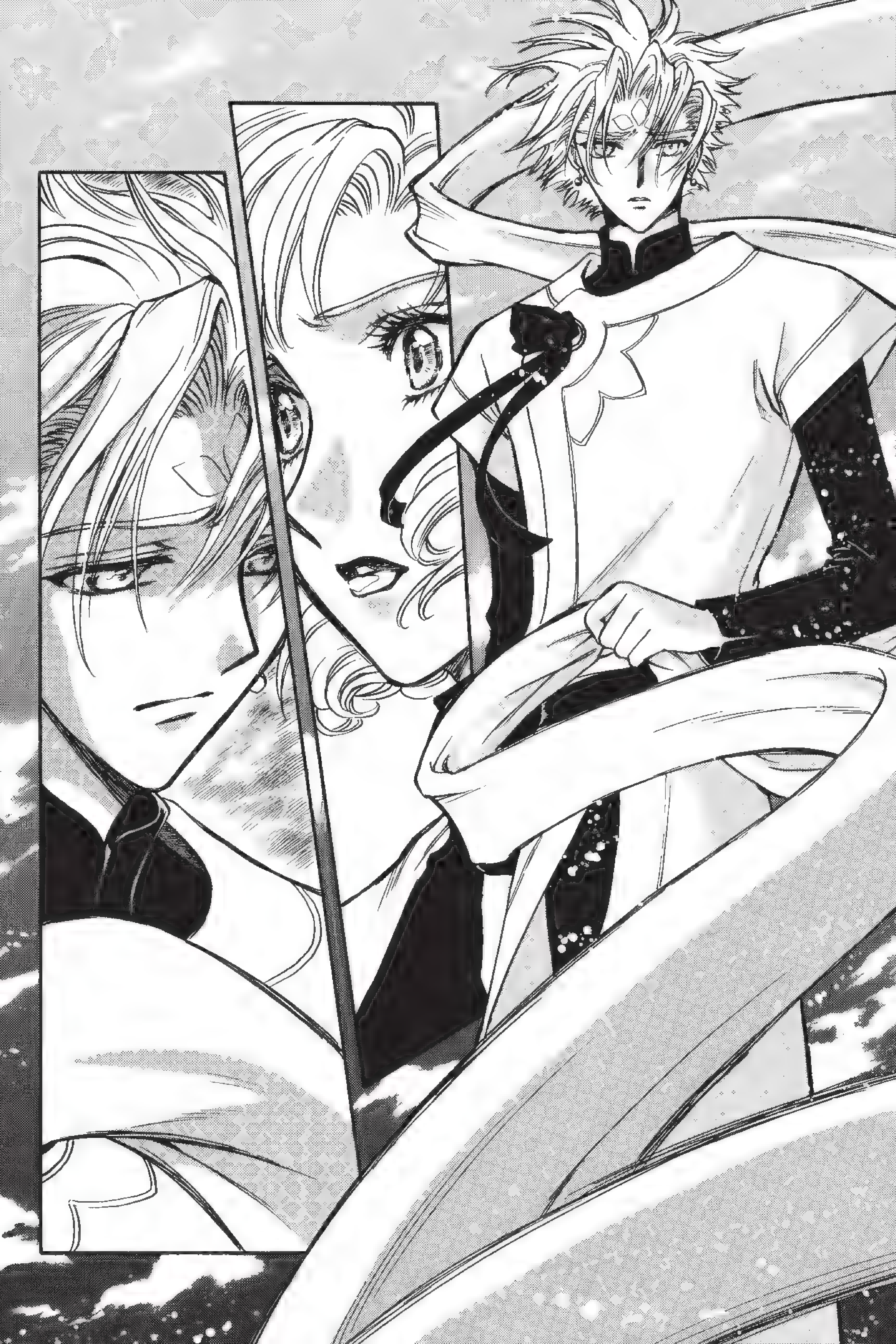

KAREN ...?
WHAM
WHAM

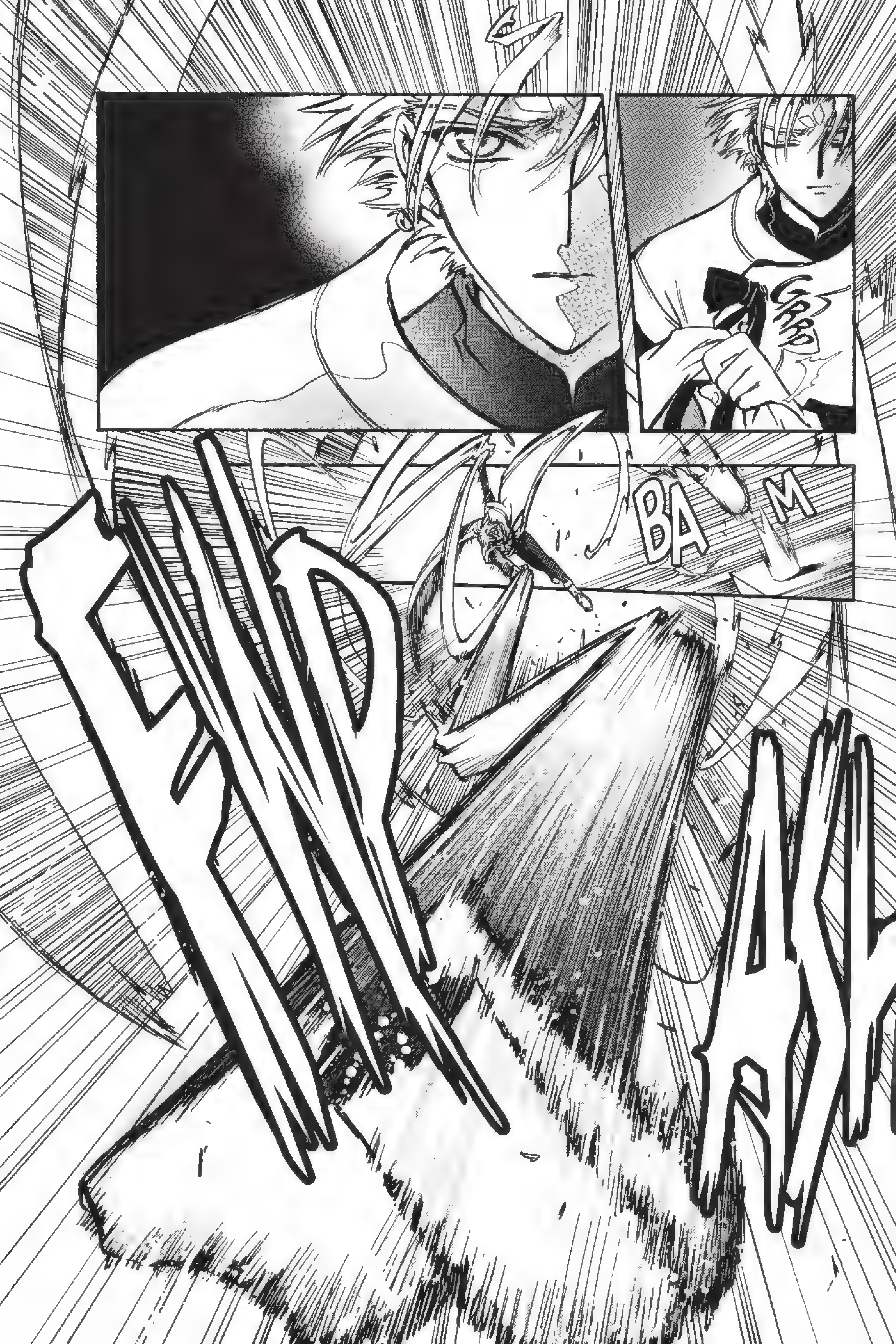

HYUUUUUUU
ROAR
KRAKL KRAKL
FWOOOM
KRMBL
KRML

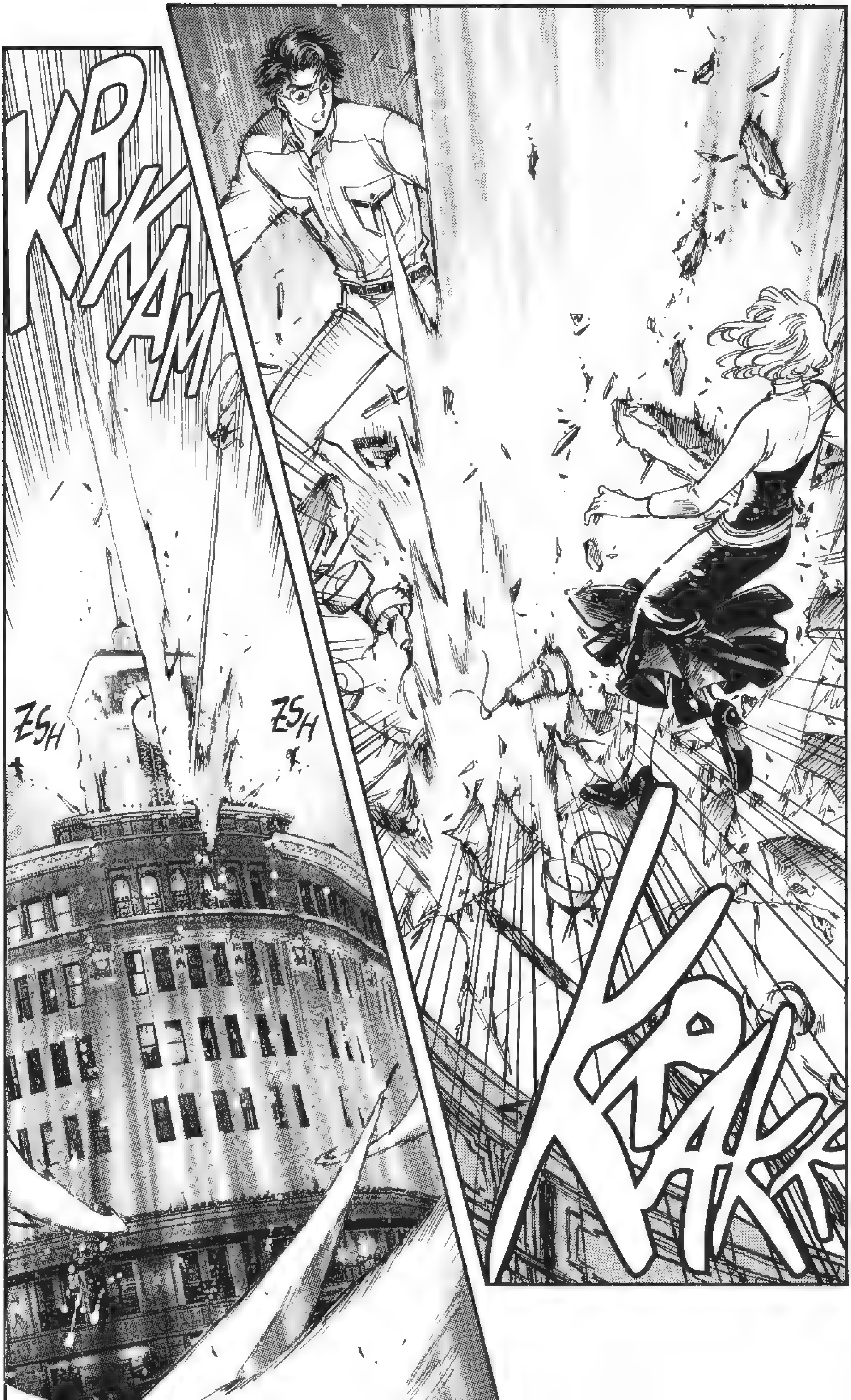

WHOOM
HYUUUUU
FWISH
KRAKL
KRAKL

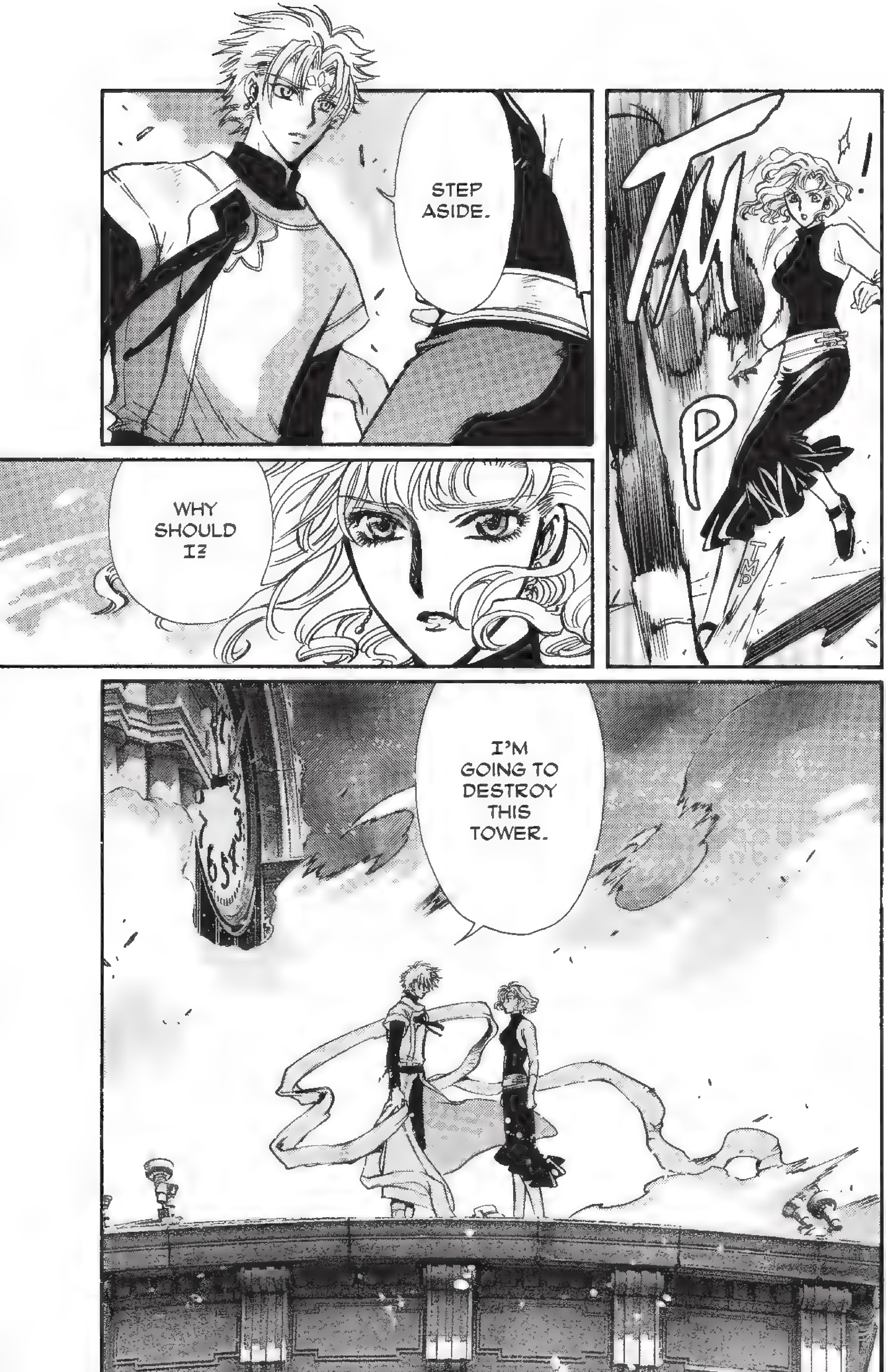

ZAN
WOAAA
銀座
Ginza

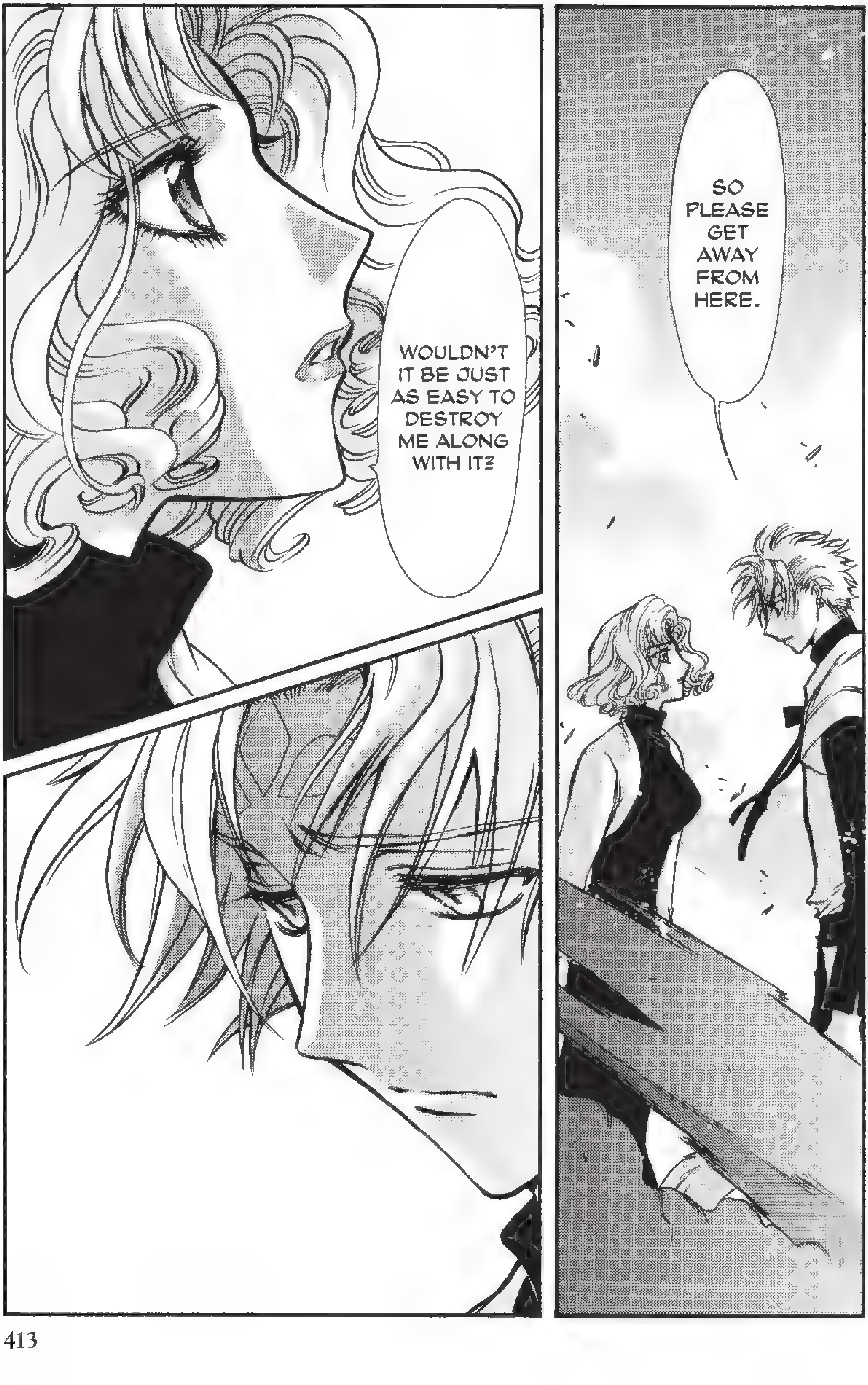

ROAR
KRMBL
KRMBL
KRMBL
SOME-THING'S ODD.
I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING.
OOOO
HE KEEPS ATTACKING US IN THE EXACT SAME WAY, OVER AND OVER...
HUH ...?

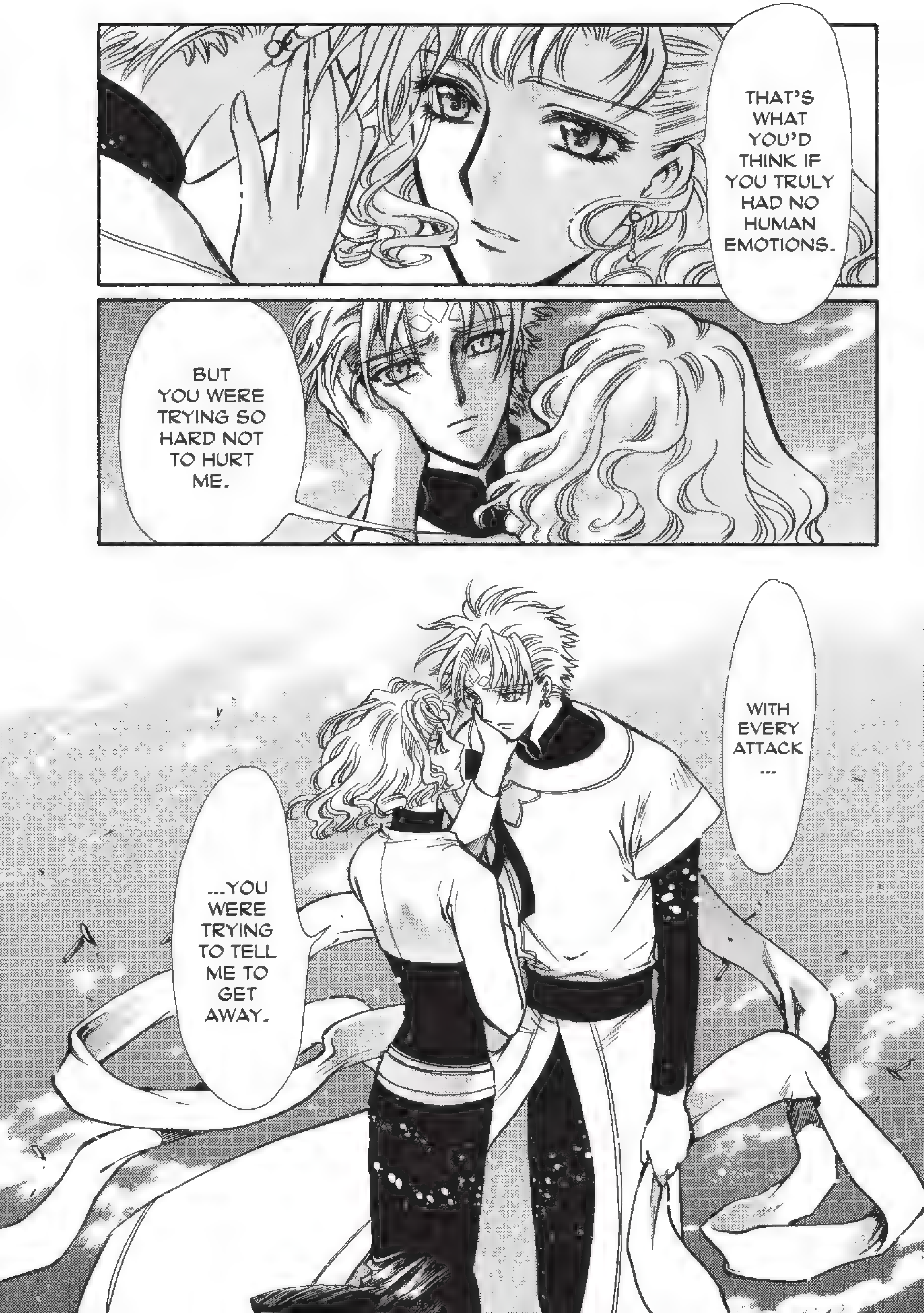


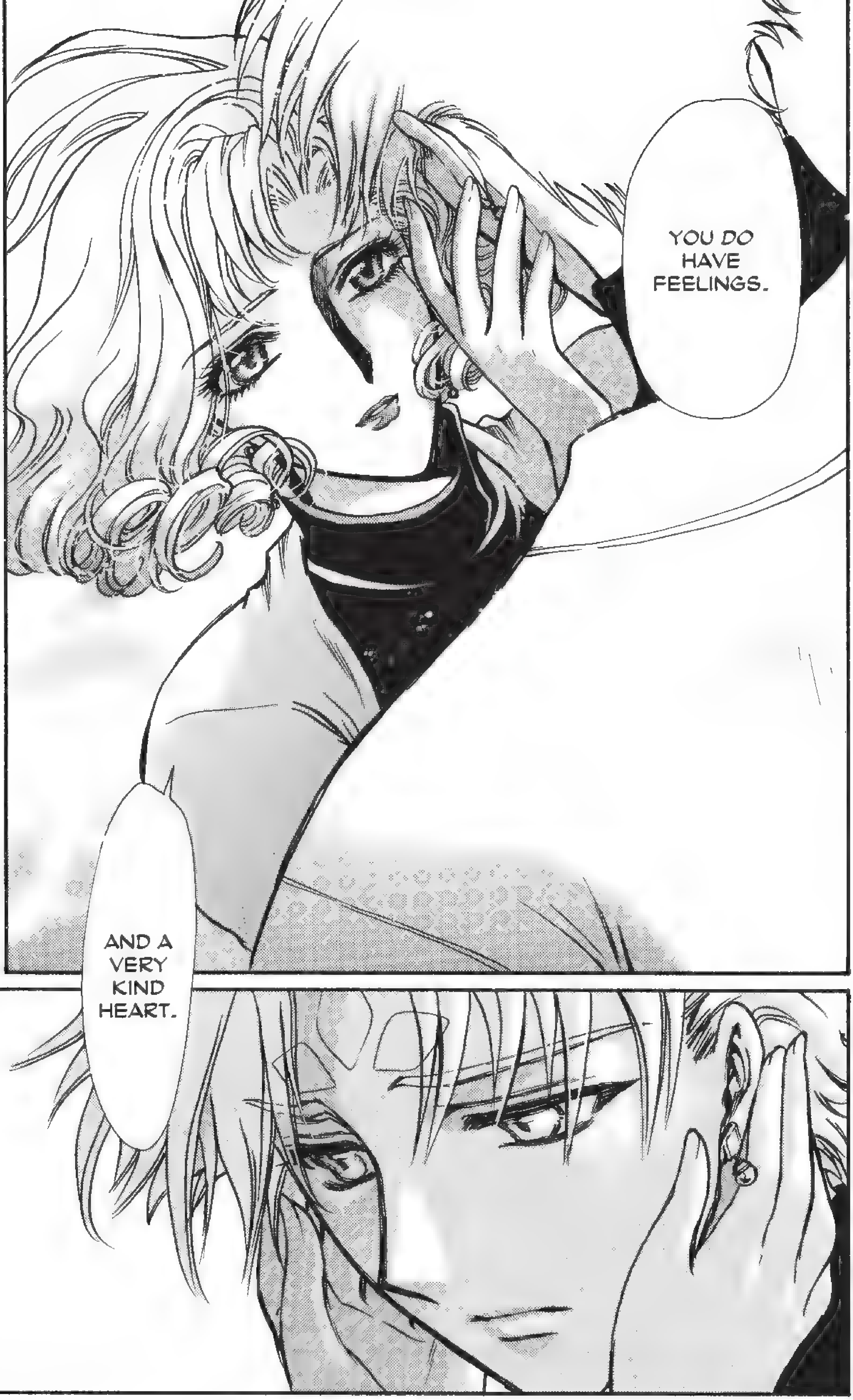

GRAB
BAM
CRA

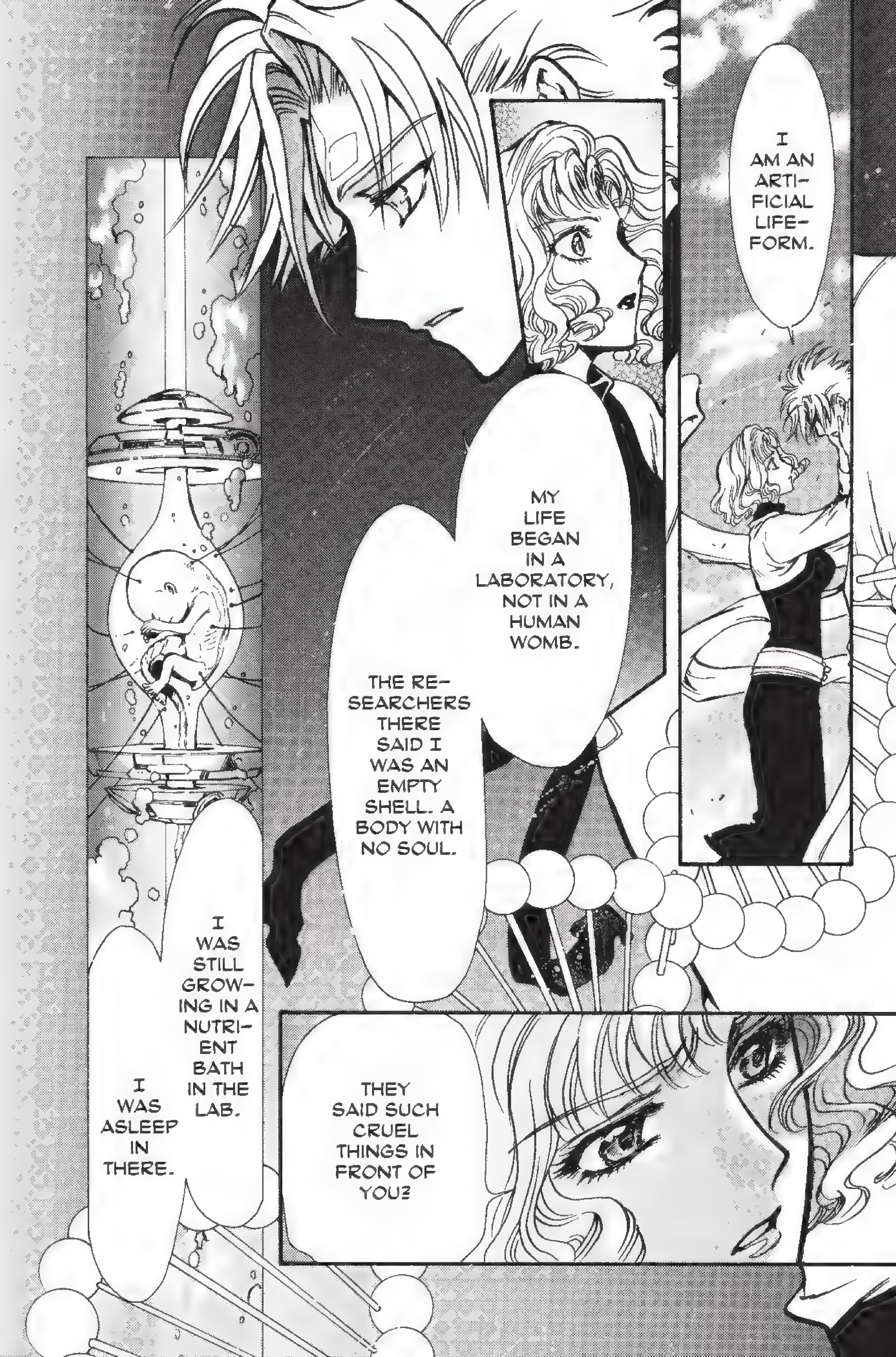

KRAK
KRKAM
ZSH
ZSH

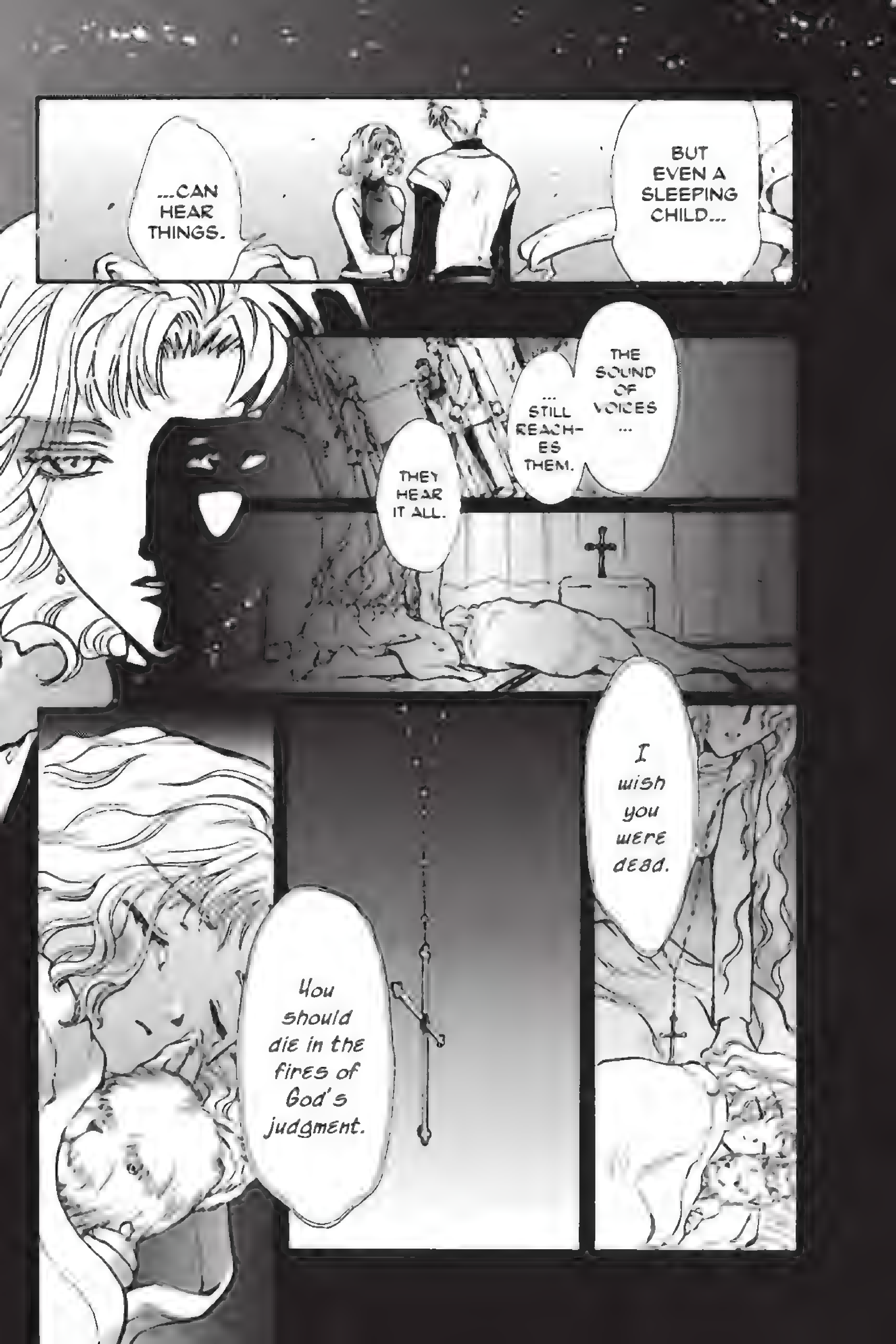

TMP
STEP ASIDE.
WHY SHOULD I?
I'M GOING TO DESTROY THIS TOWER.

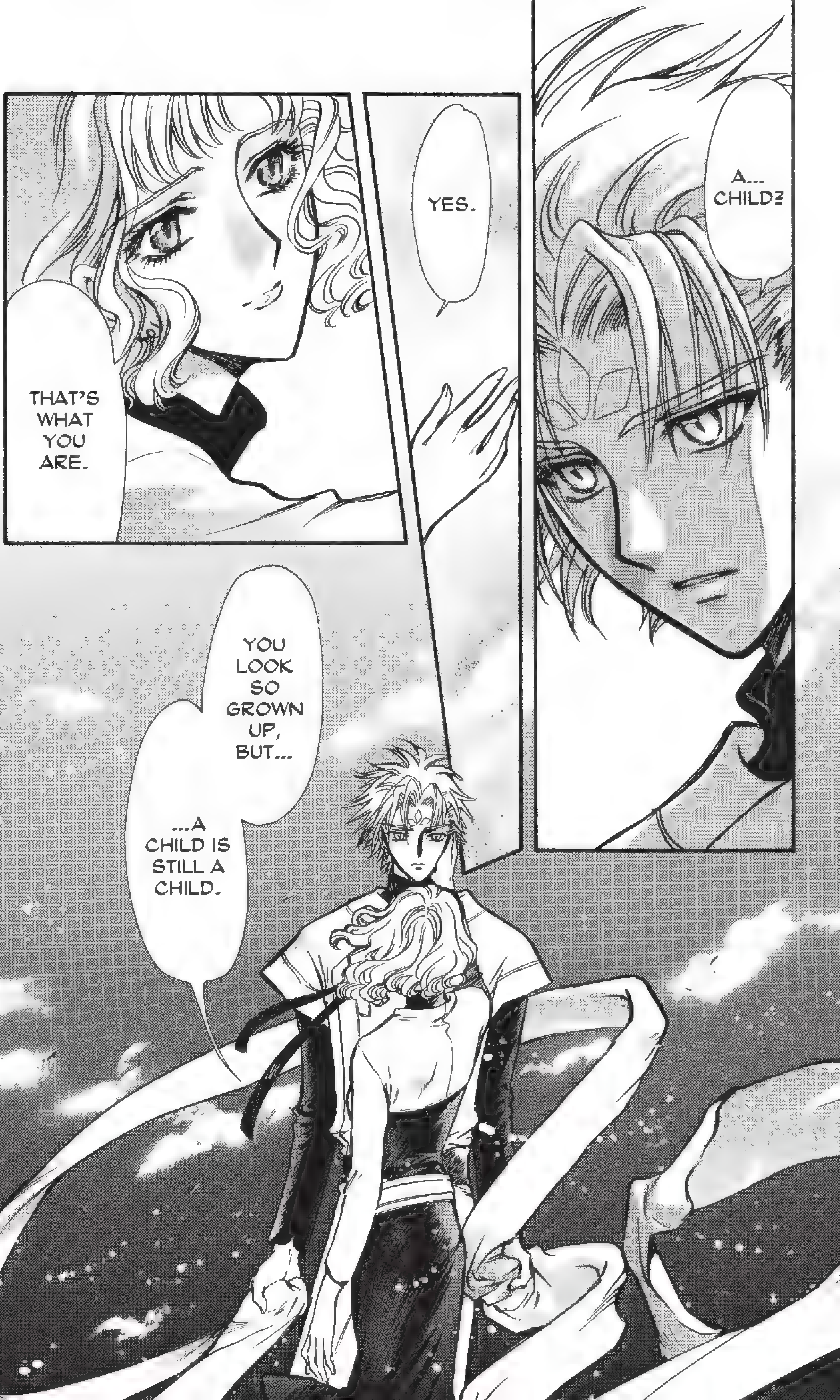

SO PLEASE GET AWAY FROM HERE.
WOULDN'T IT BE JUST AS EASY TO DESTROY ME ALONG WITH IT?

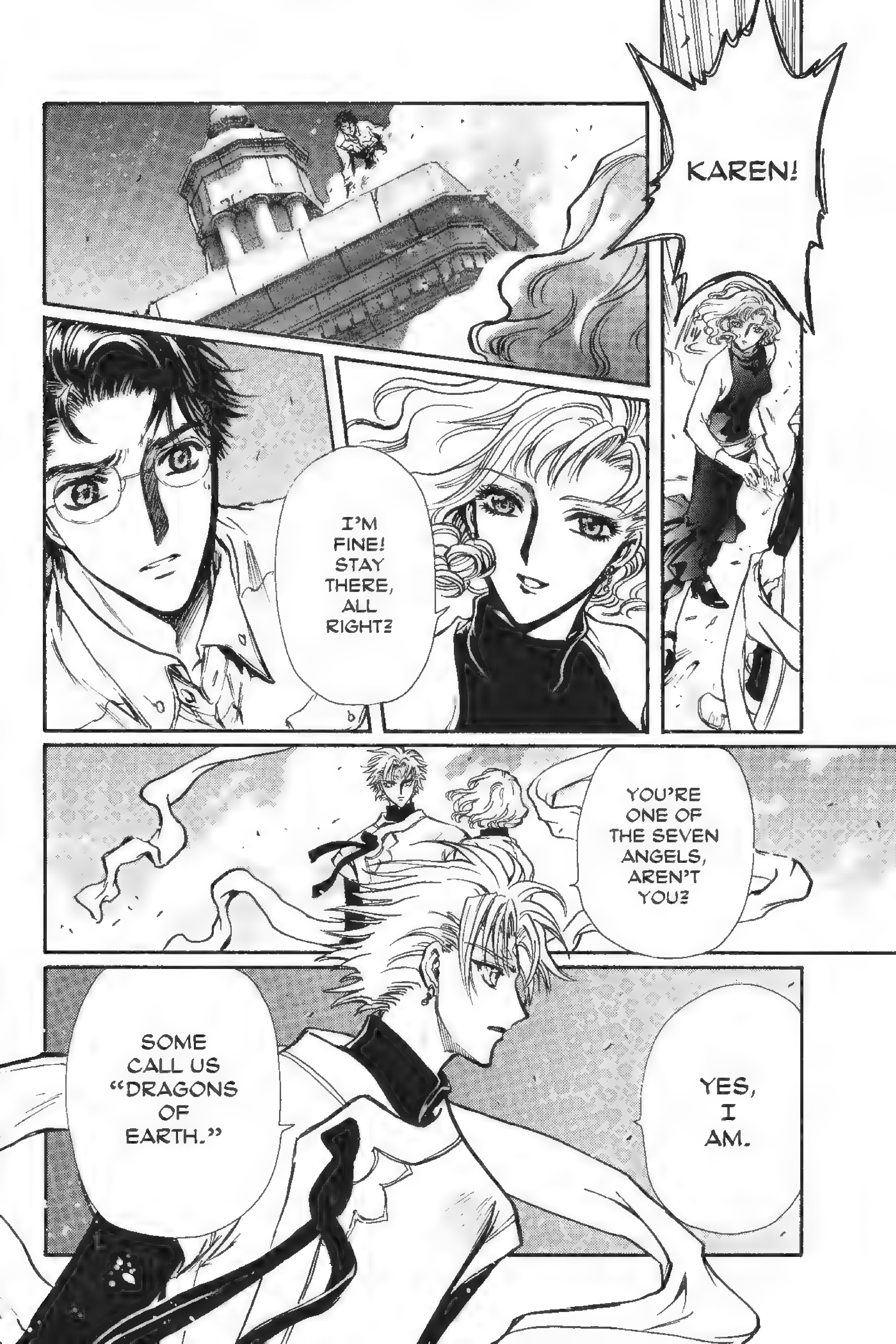

THAT'S WHAT YOU'D THINK IF YOU TRULY HAD NO HUMAN EMOTIONS.
BUT YOU WERE TRYING SO HARD NOT TO HURT ME.
WITH EVERY ATTACK ...
...YOU WERE TRYING TO TELL ME TO GET AWAY.

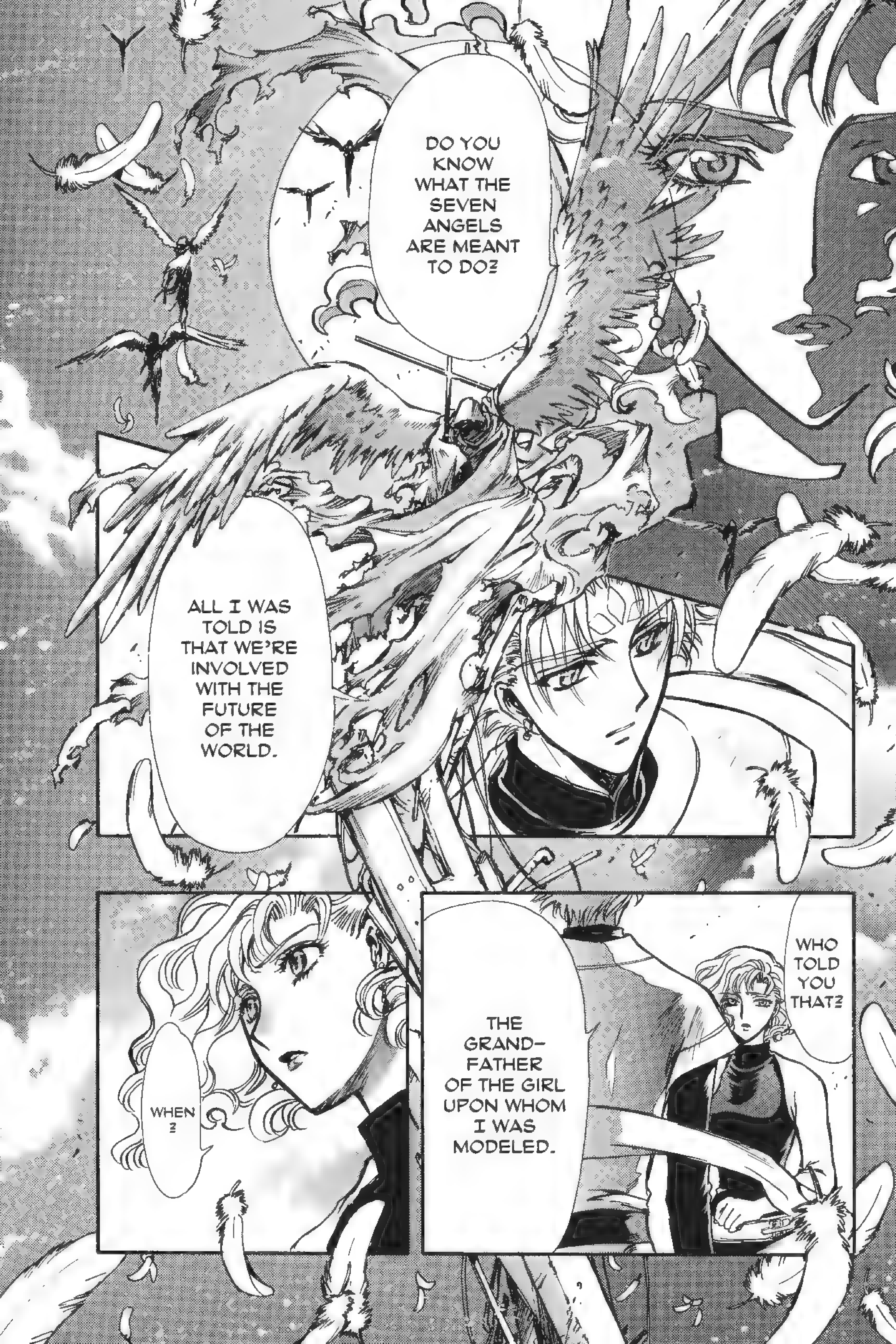

YOU *DO* HAVE FEELINGS.
AND A VERY KIND HEART.

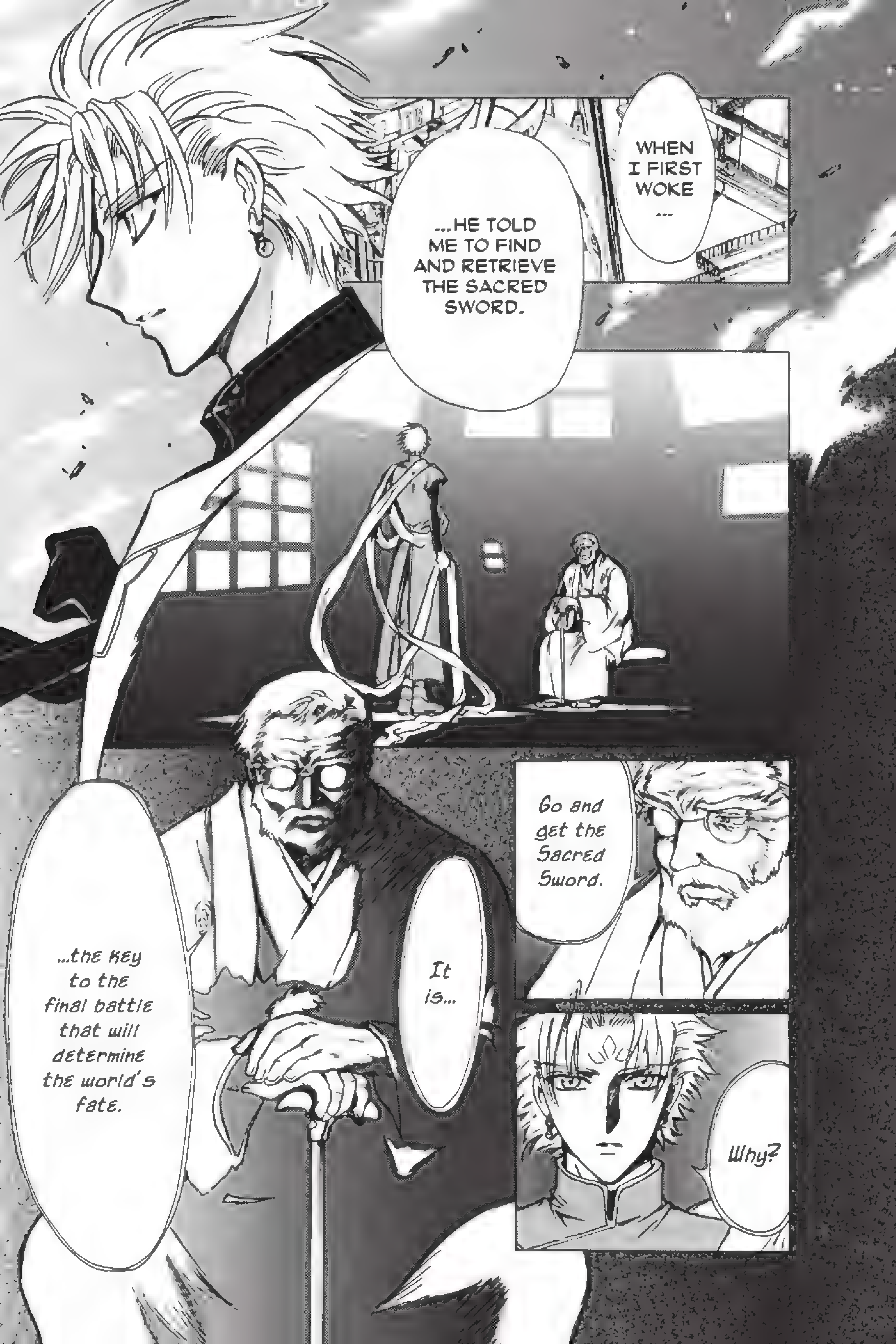

I AM AN ARTIFICIAL LIFE-FORM.
MY LIFE BEGAN IN A LABORATORY, NOT IN A HUMAN WOMB.
THE RESEARCHERS THERE SAID I WAS AN EMPTY SHELL. A BODY WITH NO SOUL.
THEY SAID SUCH CRUEL THINGS IN FRONT OF YOU?
I WAS STILL GROWING IN A NUTRIENT BATH IN THE LAB.
I WAS ASLEEP IN THERE.

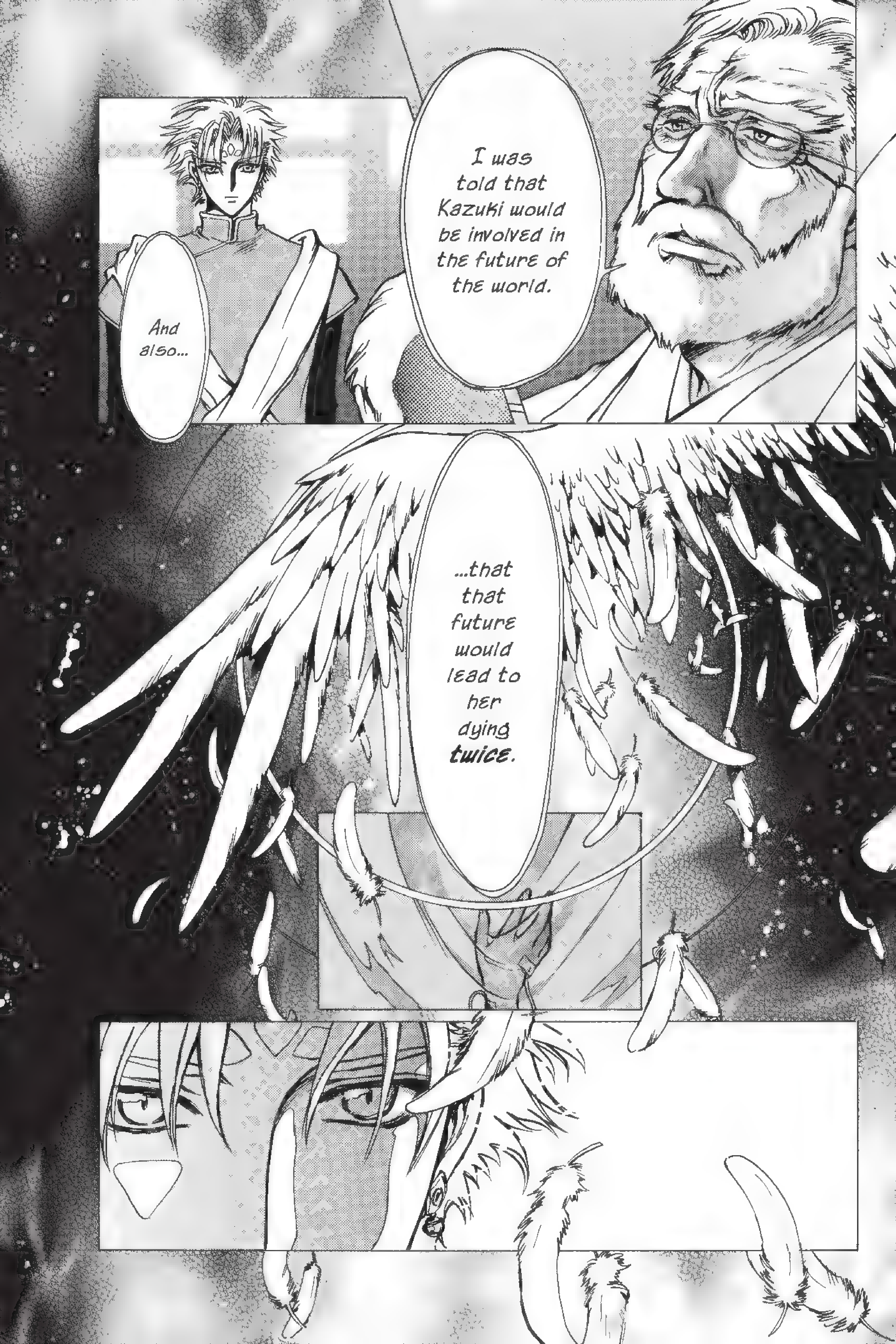

BUT EVEN A SLEEPING CHILD...
...CAN HEAR THINGS.
THE SOUND OF VOICES ...
... STILL REACHES THEM.
THEY HEAR IT ALL.
I wish you were dead.
You should die in the fires of God's judgment.

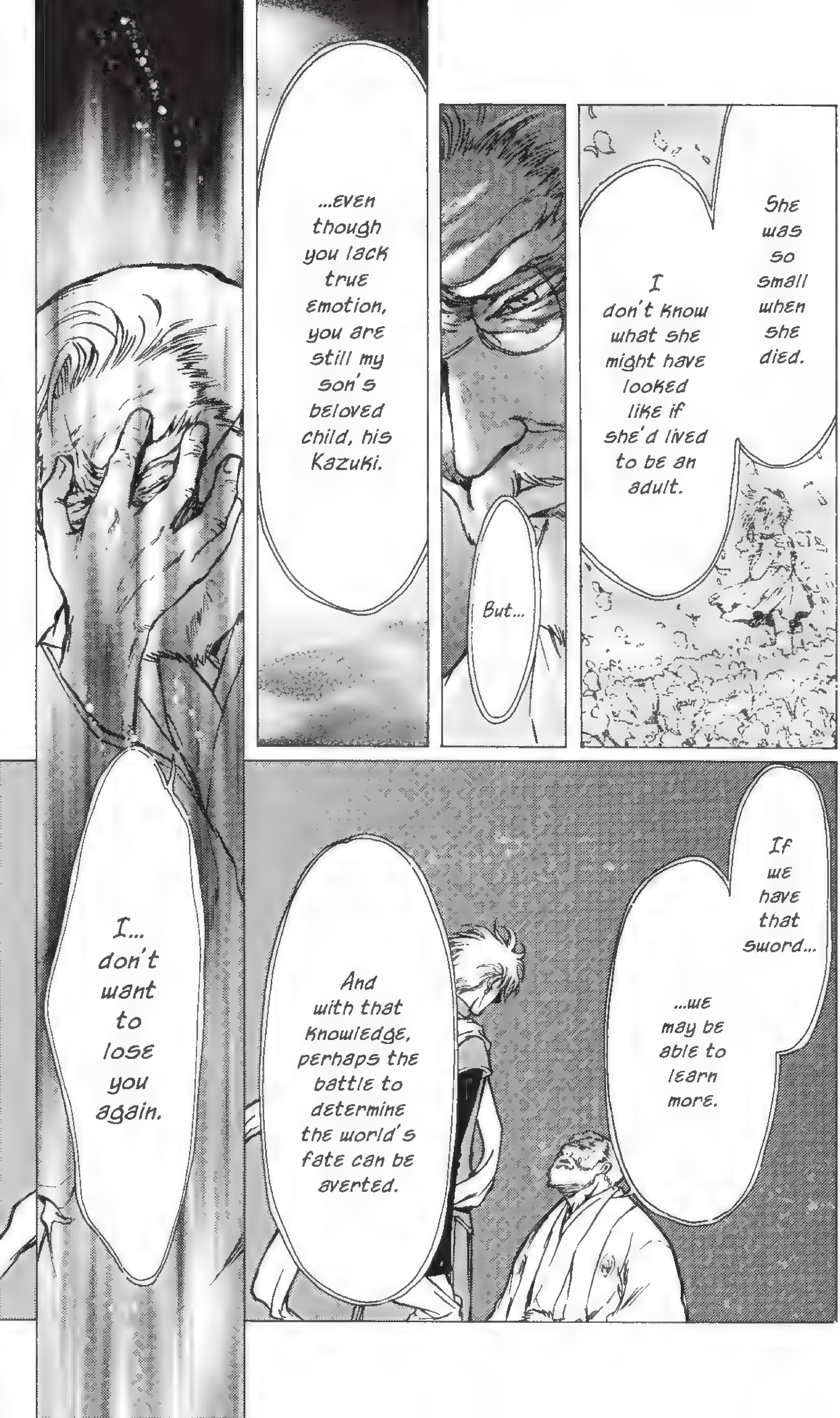

A... CHILD?
YES.
THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE.
YOU LOOK SO GROWN UP, BUT...
...A CHILD IS STILL A CHILD.

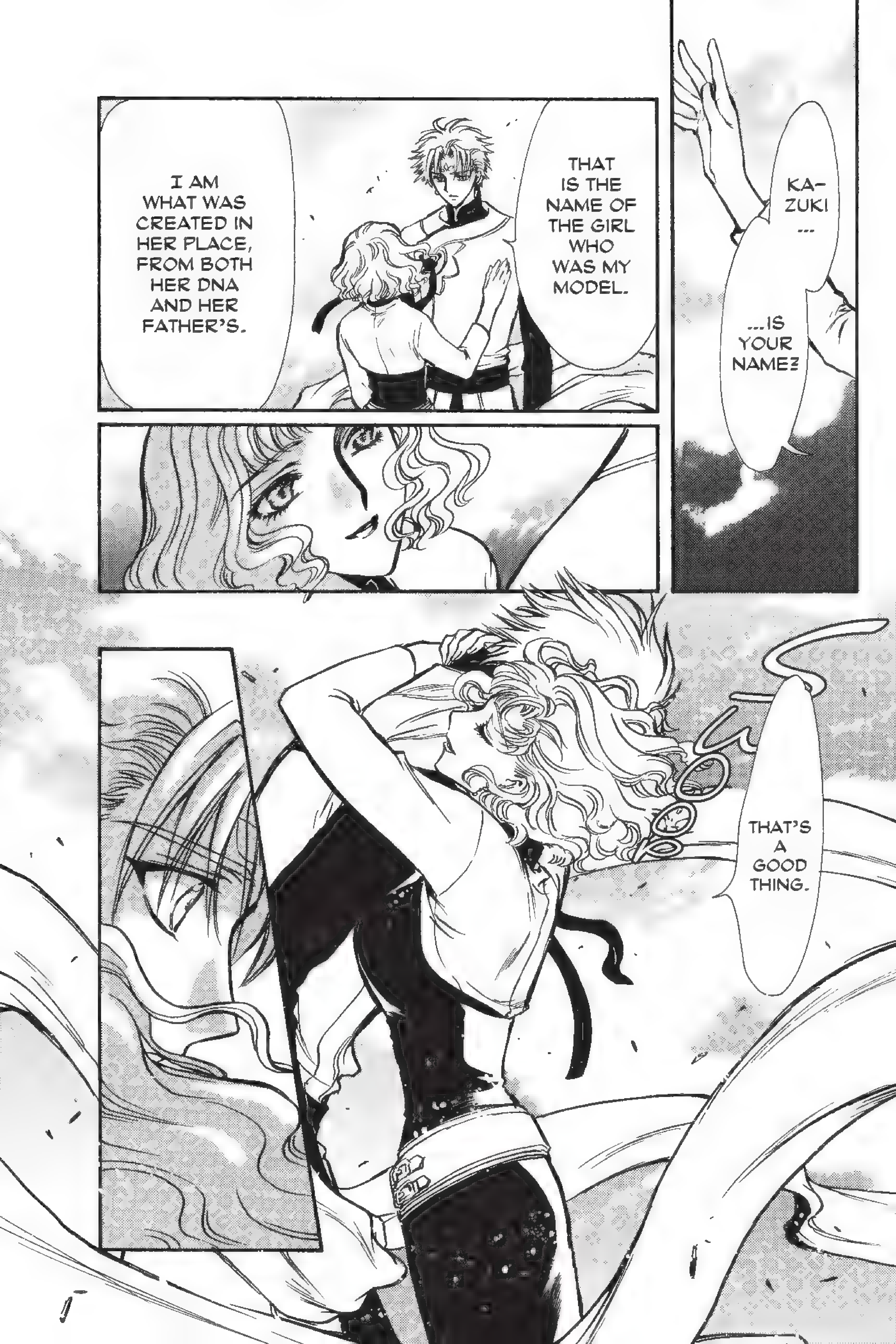

KAREN!
I'M FINE! STAY THERE, ALL RIGHT?
YOU'RE ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS, AREN'T YOU?
YES, I AM.
SOME CALL US "DRAGONS OF EARTH."

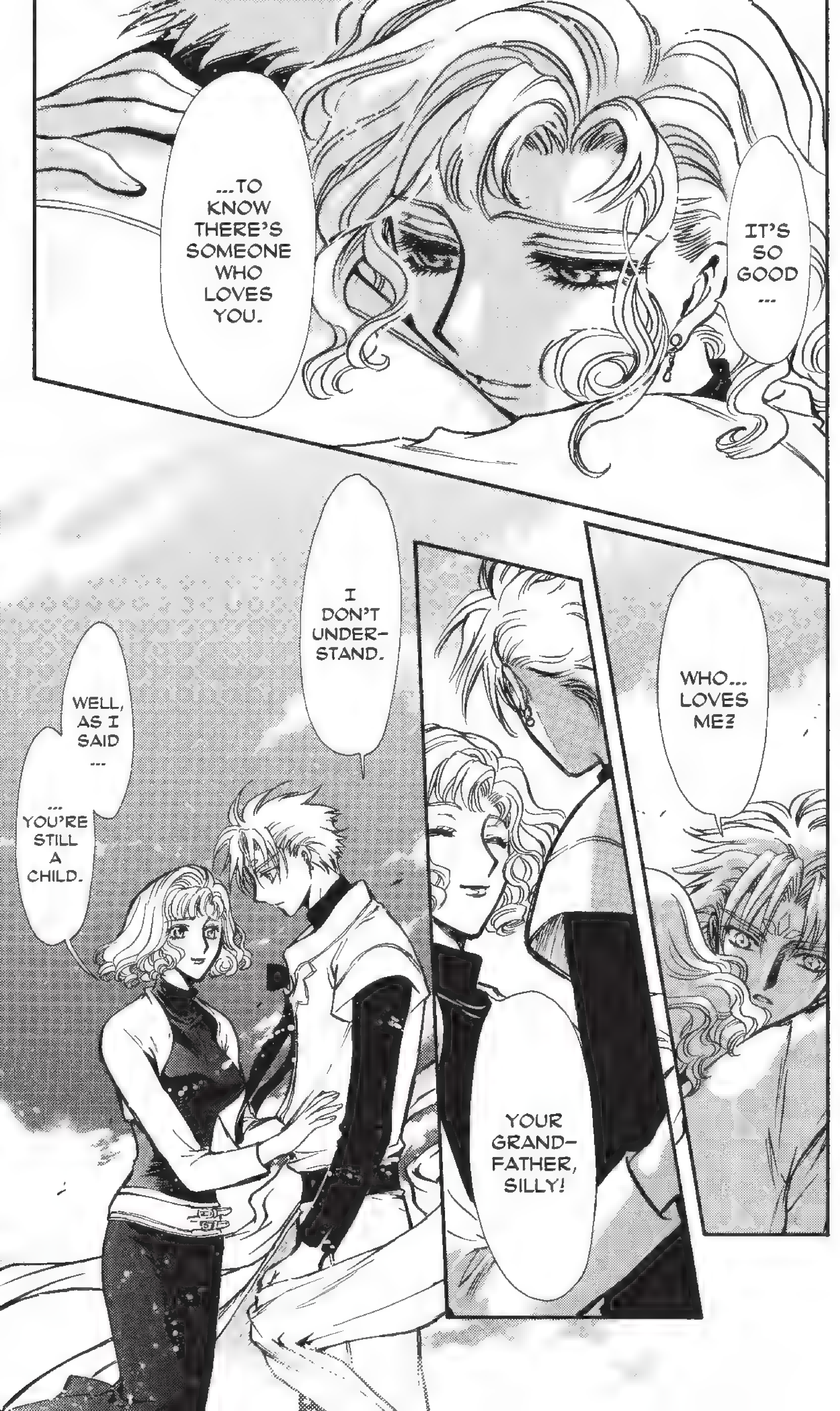

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE SEVEN ANGELS ARE MEANT TO DO?
ALL I WAS TOLD IS THAT WE'RE INVOLVED WITH THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD.
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
THE GRAND-FATHER OF THE GIRL UPON WHOM I WAS MODELED.
WHEN ?

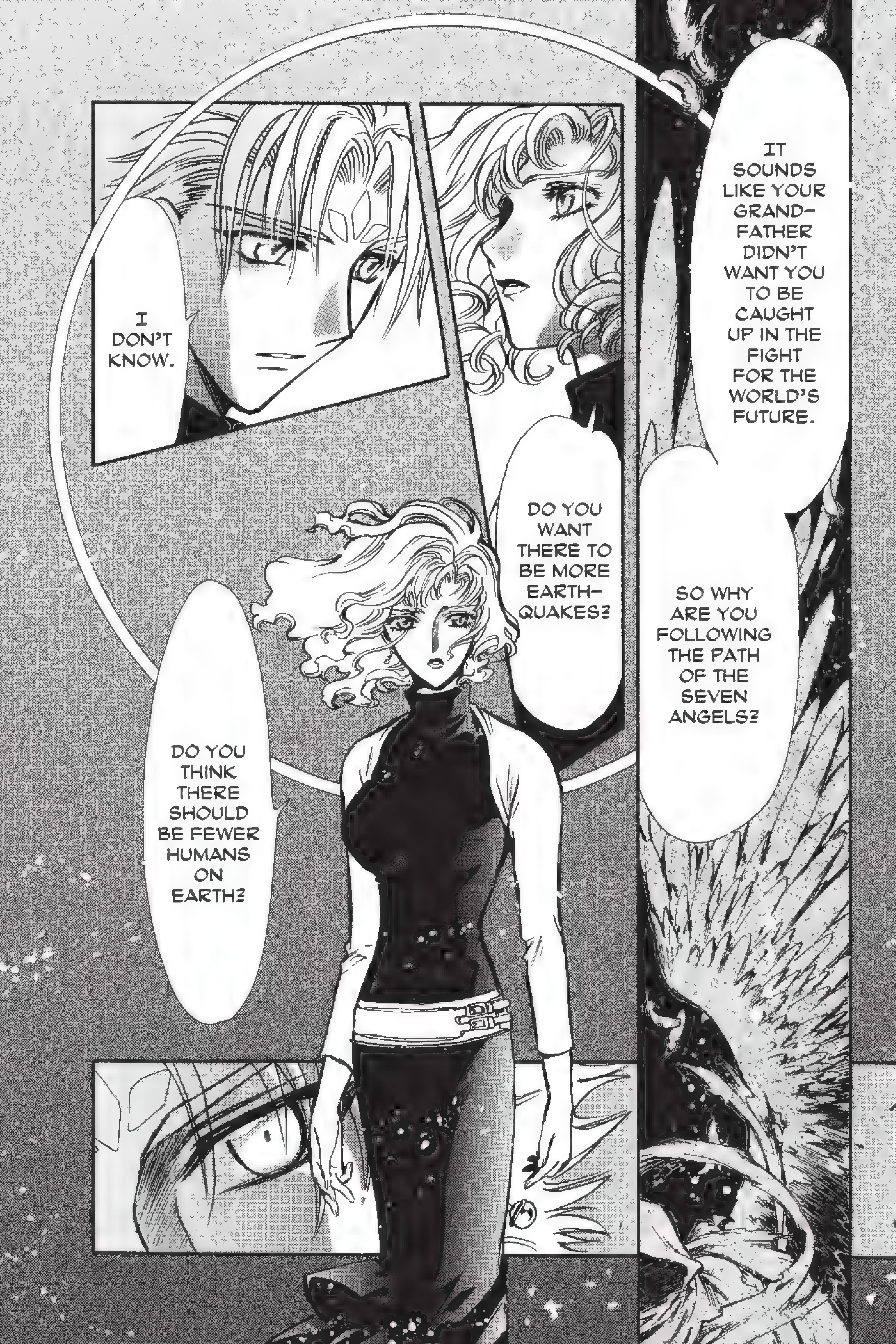

WHEN I FIRST WOKE ...
...HE TOLD ME TO FIND AND RETRIEVE THE SACRED SWORD.
Go and get the Sacred Sword.
It is...
...the key to the final battle that will determine the world's fate.
Why?

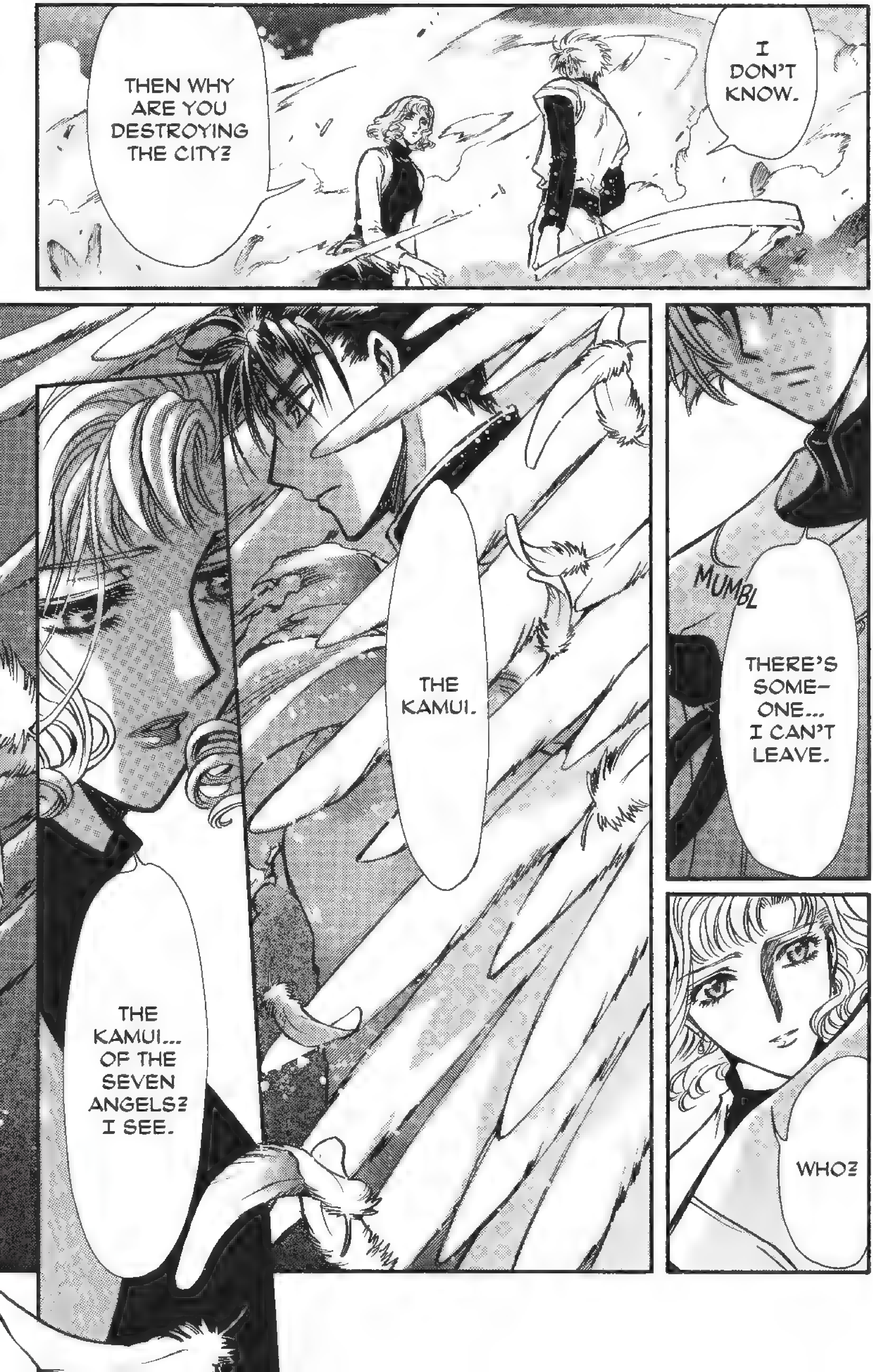

I was told that Kazuki would be involved in the future of the world.
And also...
...that that future would lead to her dying **twice**.

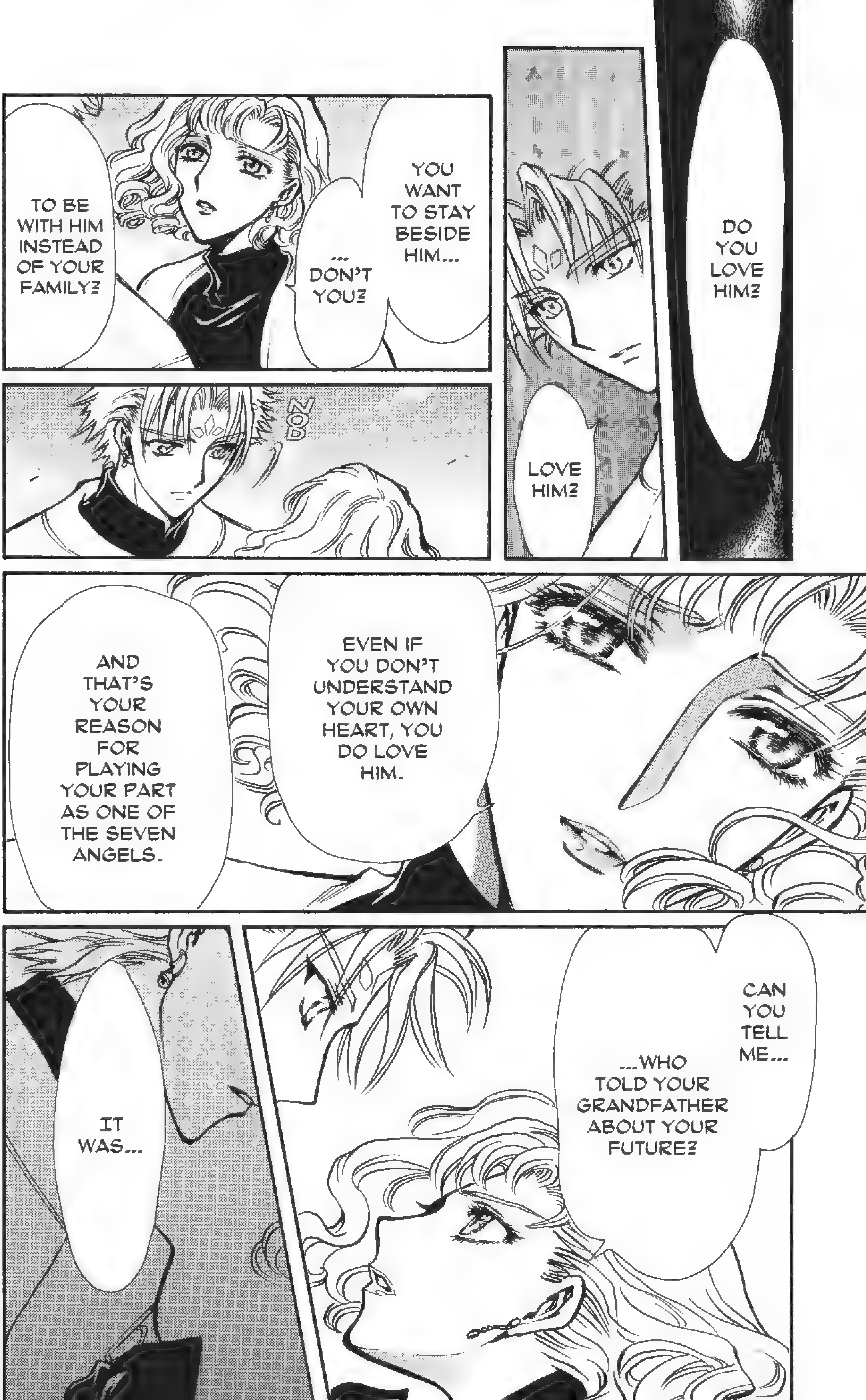

She was so small when she died.
I don't know what she might have looked like if she'd lived to be an adult.
But...
...even though you lack true emotion, you are still my son's beloved child, his Kazuki.
If we have that sword...
...we may be able to learn more.
And with that knowledge, perhaps the battle to determine the world's fate can be averted.
I... don't want to lose you again.

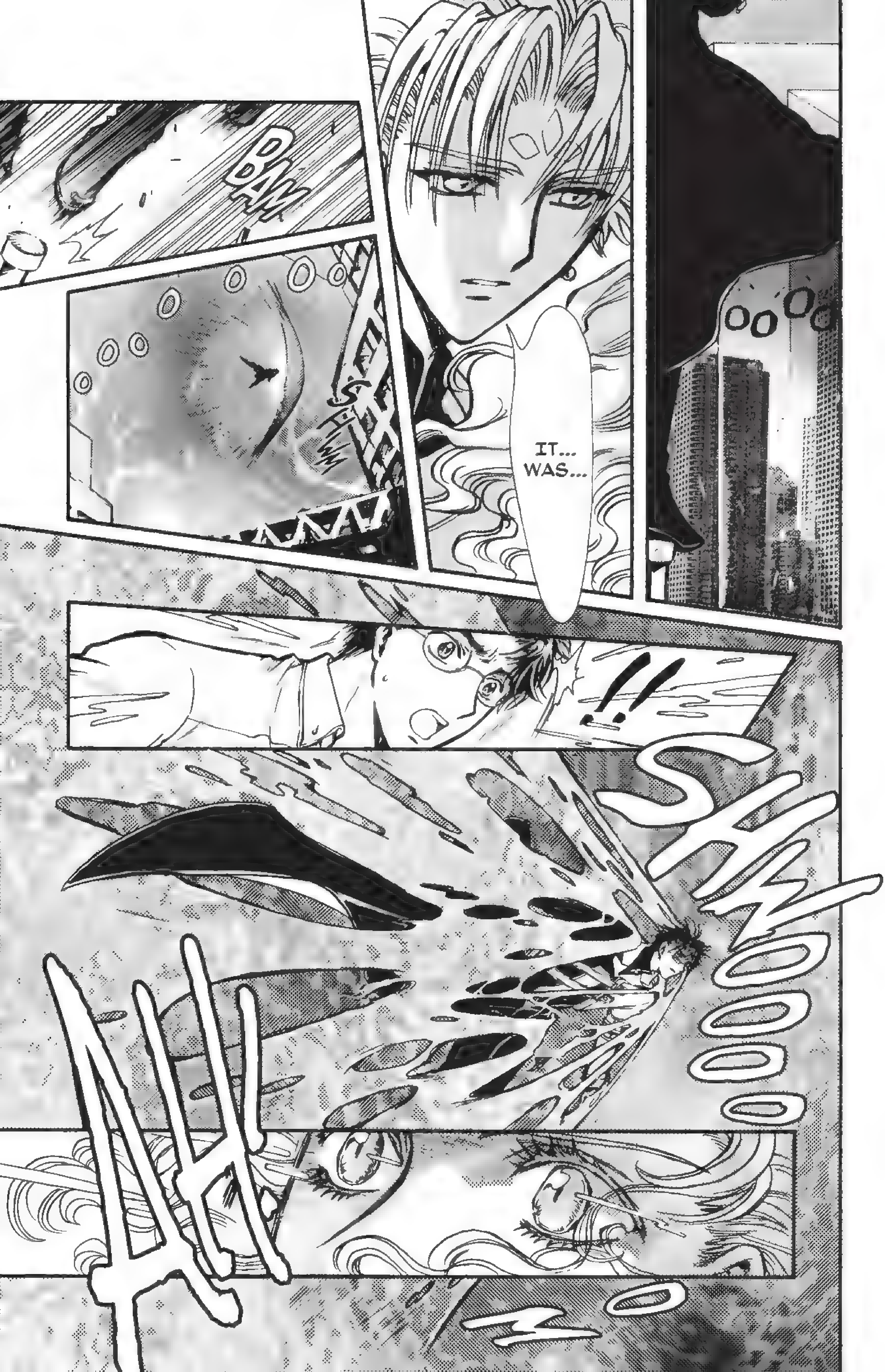

KA-ZUKI...
...IS YOUR NAME?
THAT IS THE NAME OF THE GIRL WHO WAS MY MODEL.
I AM WHAT WAS CREATED IN HER PLACE, FROM BOTH HER DNA AND HER FATHER'S.
THAT'S A GOOD THING.

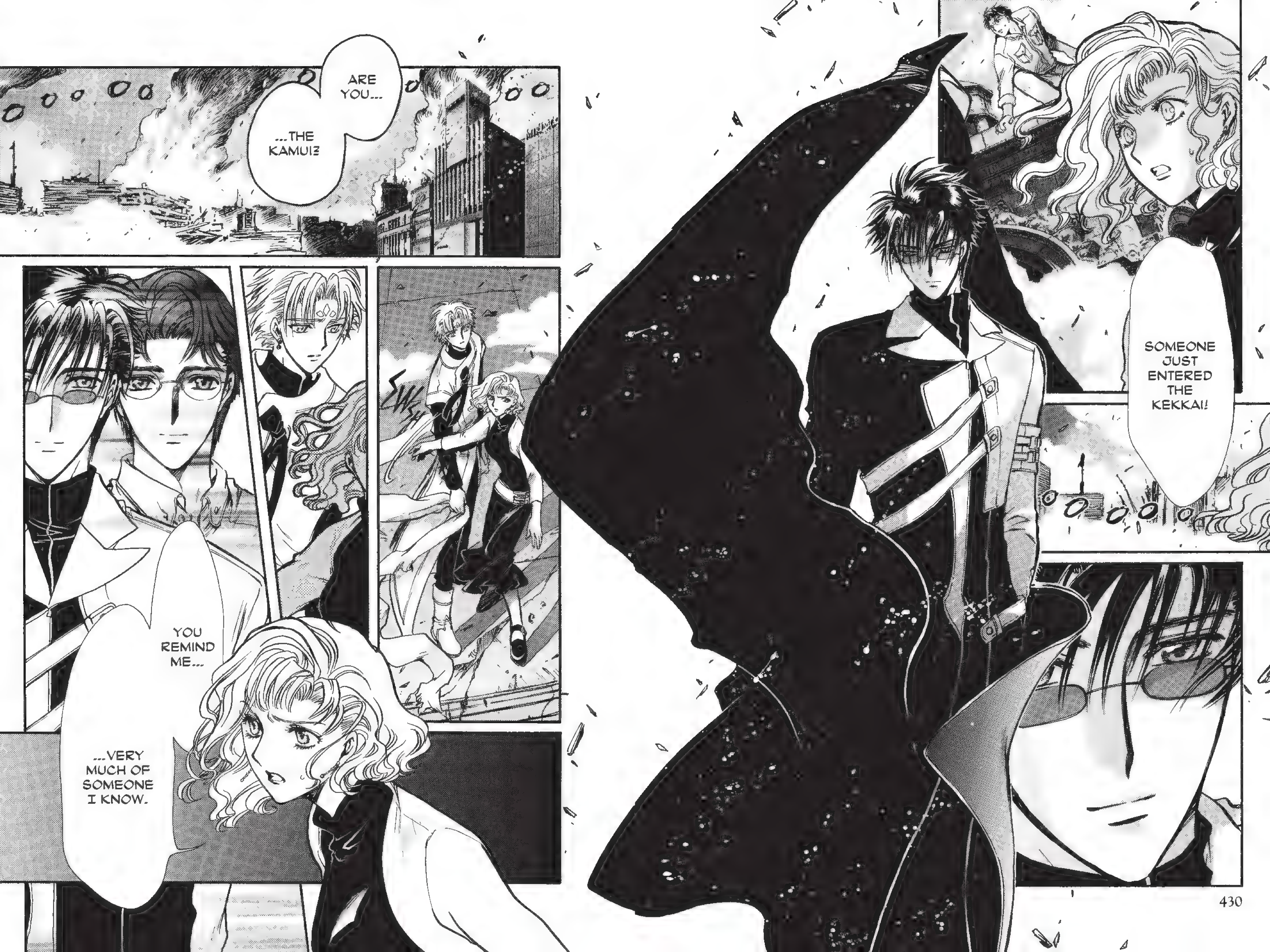

IT'S SO GOOD...
...TO KNOW THERE'S SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU.
WHO... LOVES ME?
YOUR GRANDFATHER, SILLY!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WELL, AS I SAID...
...YOU'RE STILL A CHILD.

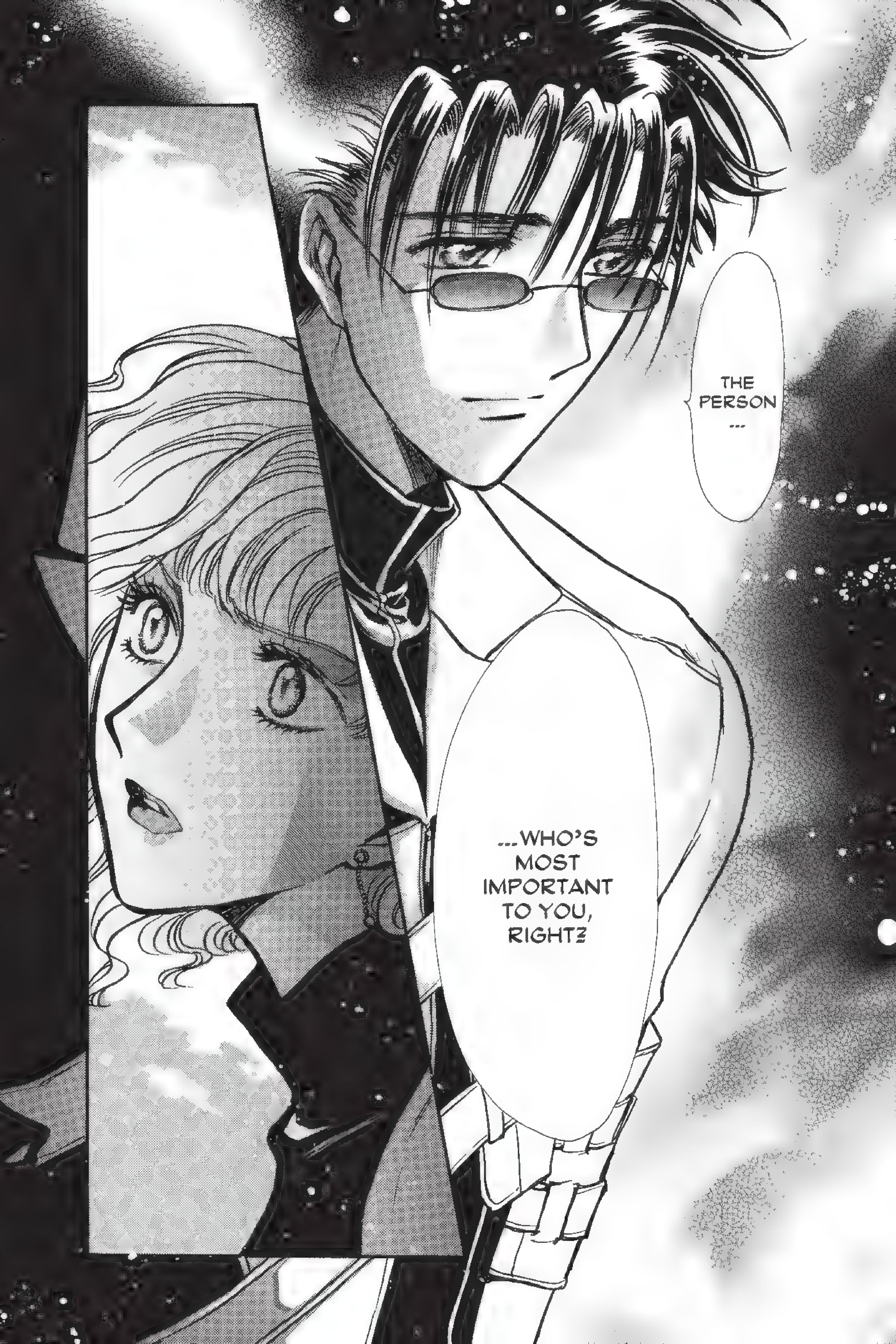

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR GRANDFATHER DIDN'T WANT YOU TO BE CAUGHT UP IN THE FIGHT FOR THE WORLD'S FUTURE.
SO WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING THE PATH OF THE SEVEN ANGELS?
DO YOU WANT THERE TO BE MORE EARTHQUAKES?
DO YOU THINK THERE SHOULD BE FEWER HUMANS ON EARTH?
I DON'T KNOW.

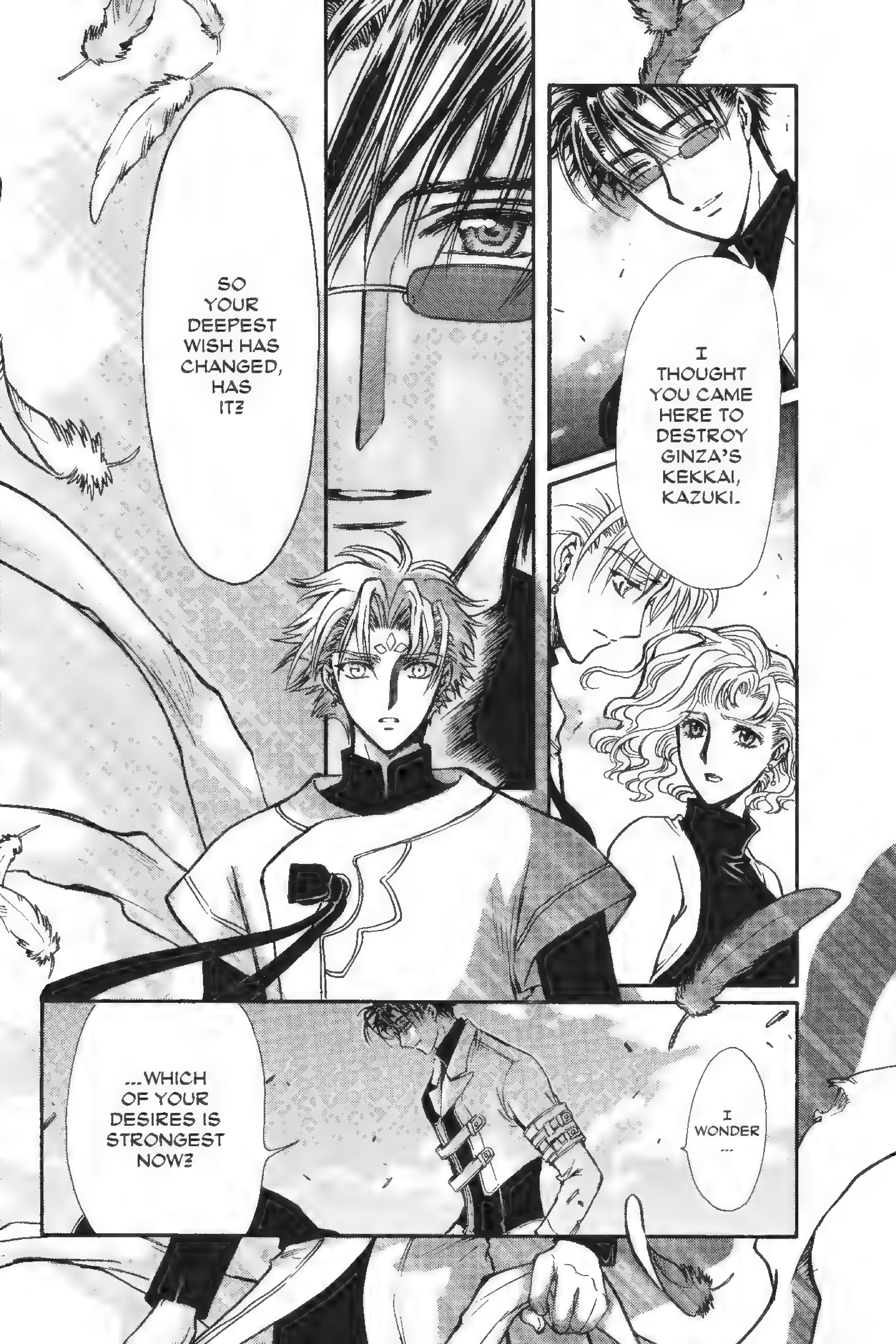

I DON'T KNOW.
THEN WHY ARE YOU DESTROYING THE CITY?
MUMBL
THERE'S SOMEONE... I CAN'T LEAVE.
THE KAMUI.
WHO?
THE KAMUI... OF THE SEVEN ANGELS? I SEE.

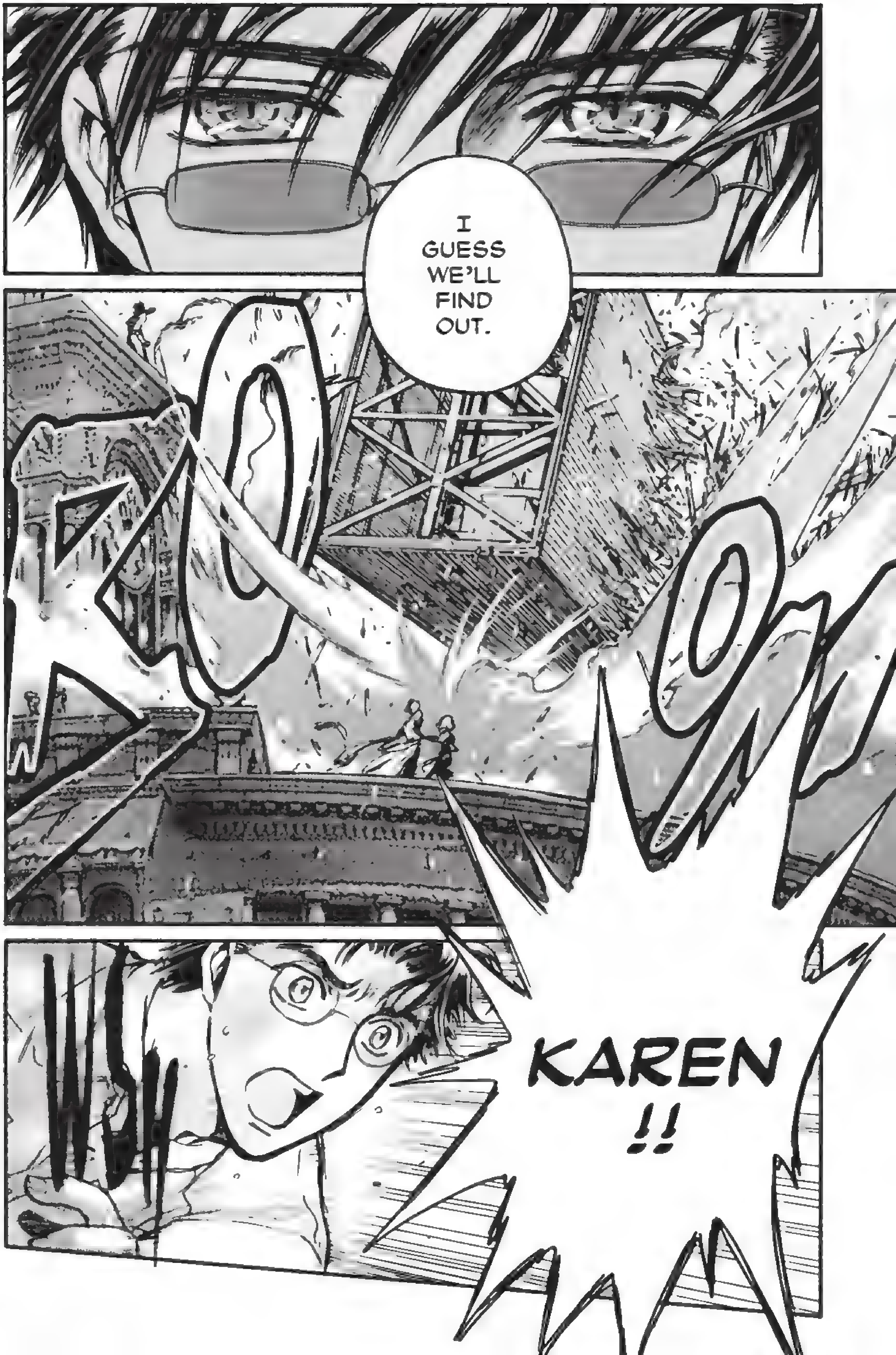

DO YOU LOVE HIM?
LOVE HIM?
YOU WANT TO STAY BESIDE HIM...
...DON'T YOU?
TO BE WITH HIM INSTEAD OF YOUR FAMILY?
NOD
EVEN IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR OWN HEART, YOU DO LOVE HIM.
AND THAT'S YOUR REASON FOR PLAYING YOUR PART AS ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS.
CAN YOU TELL ME...
...WHO TOLD YOUR GRANDFATHER ABOUT YOUR FUTURE?
IT WAS...


OOOO
IT... WAS...
BAM
SHW
!!
SHWOOOOOO
AHH

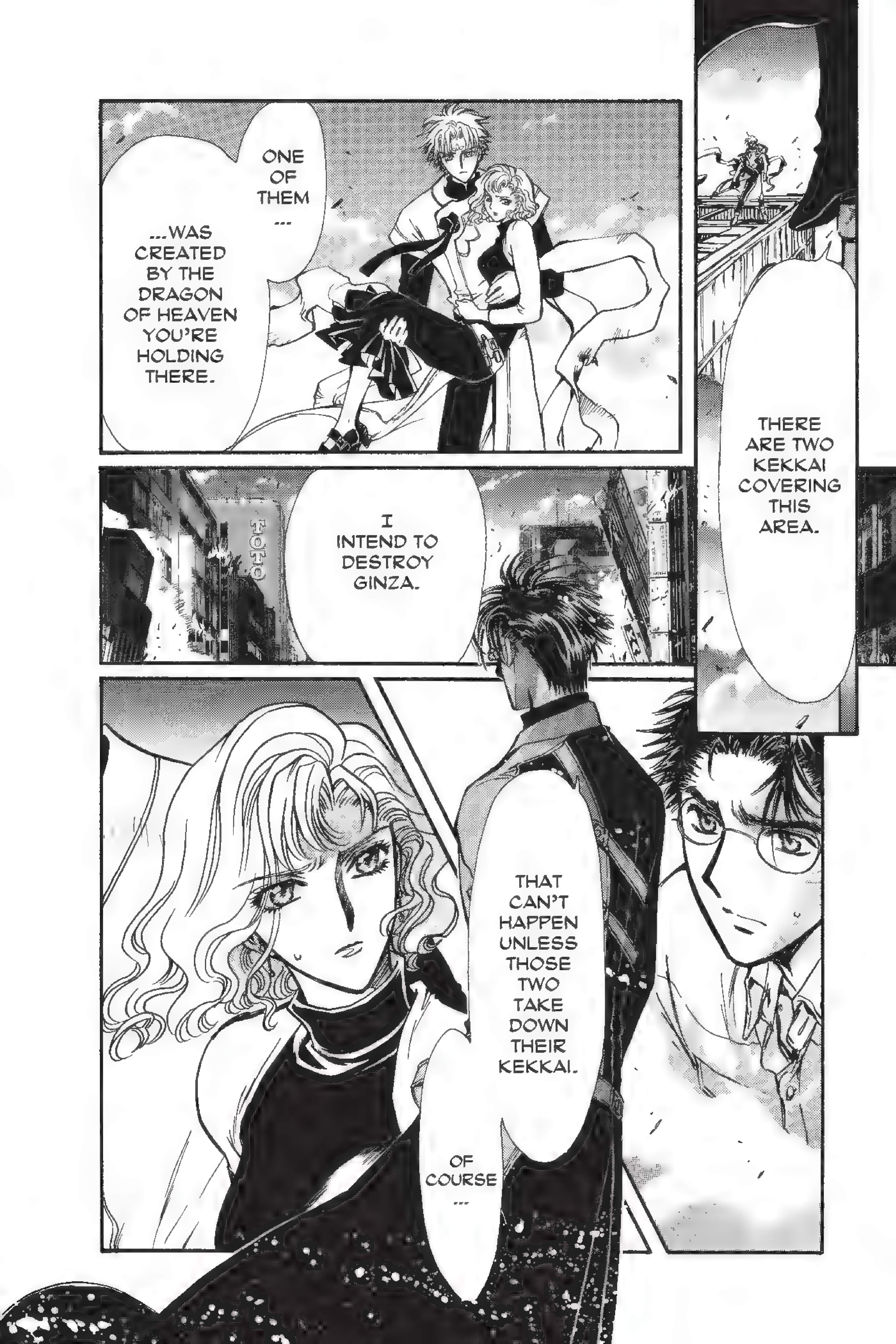

SOMEONE JUST ENTERED THE KEKKAI!
ARE YOU...
...THE KAMUI?
SWISH
YOU REMIND ME...
...VERY MUCH OF SOMEONE I KNOW.

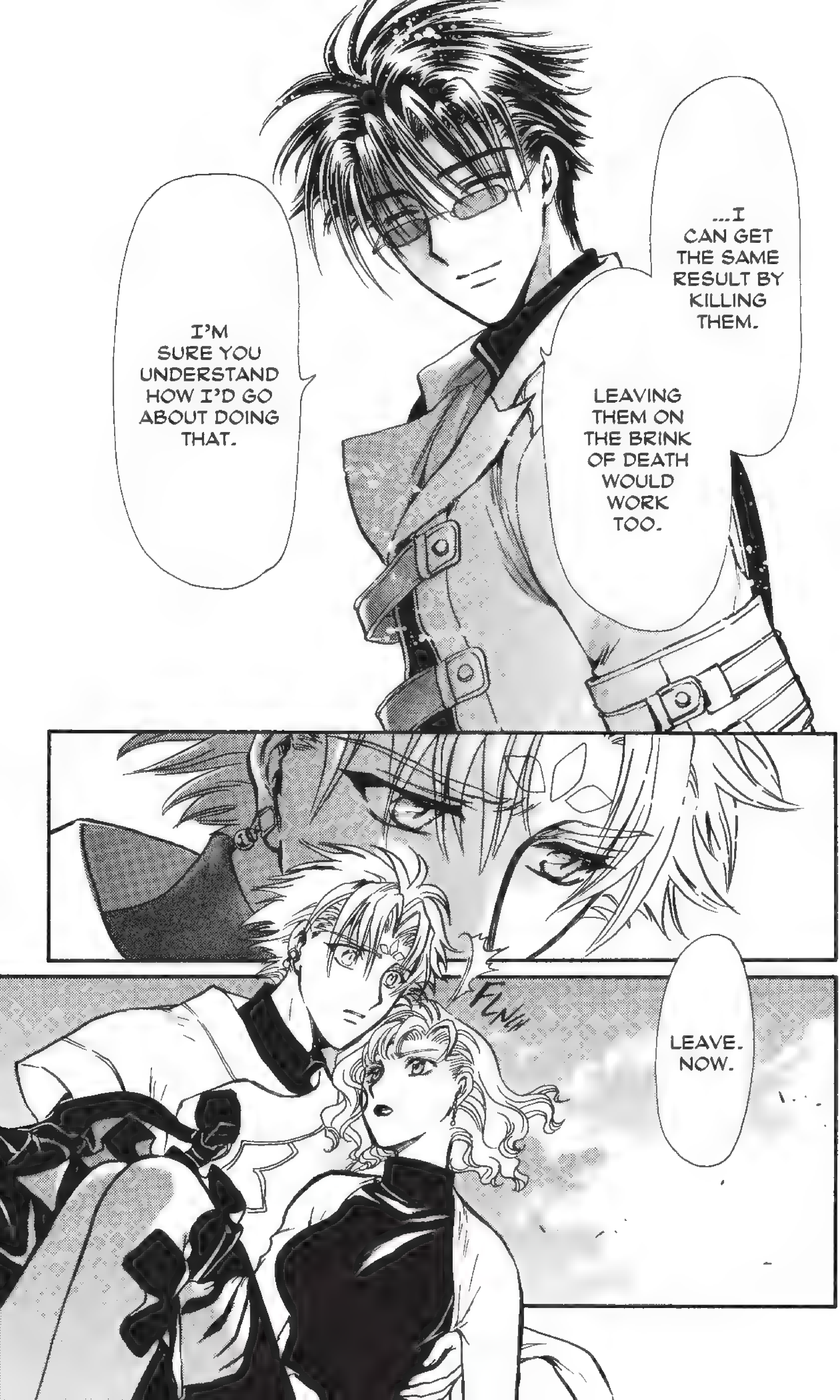

THE PERSON ...
...WHO'S MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU, RIGHT?

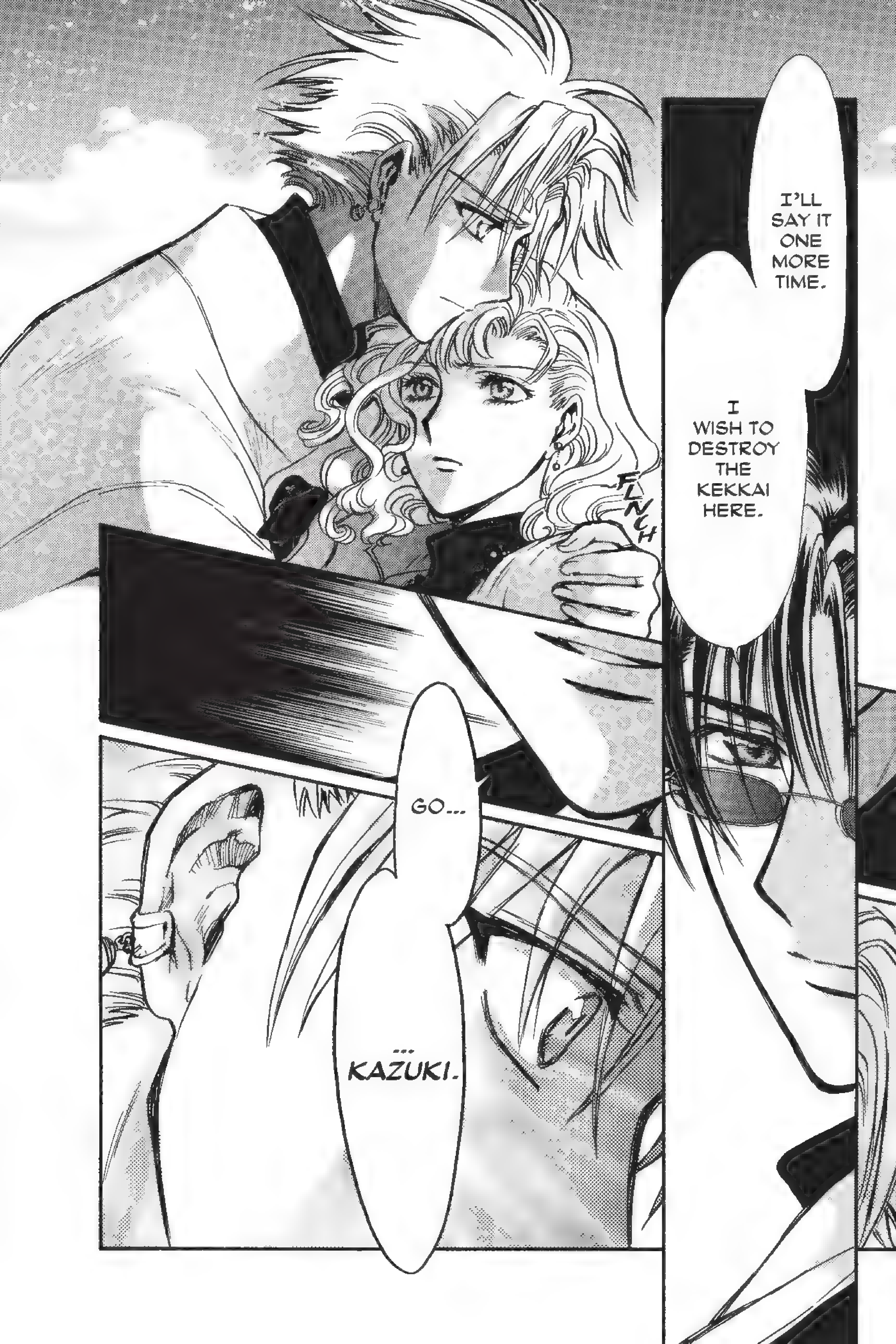

I THOUGHT YOU CAME HERE TO DESTROY GINZA'S KEKKAI, KAZUKI.
SO YOUR DEEPEST WISH HAS CHANGED, HAS IT?
I WONDER...
...WHICH OF YOUR DESIRES IS STRONGEST NOW?

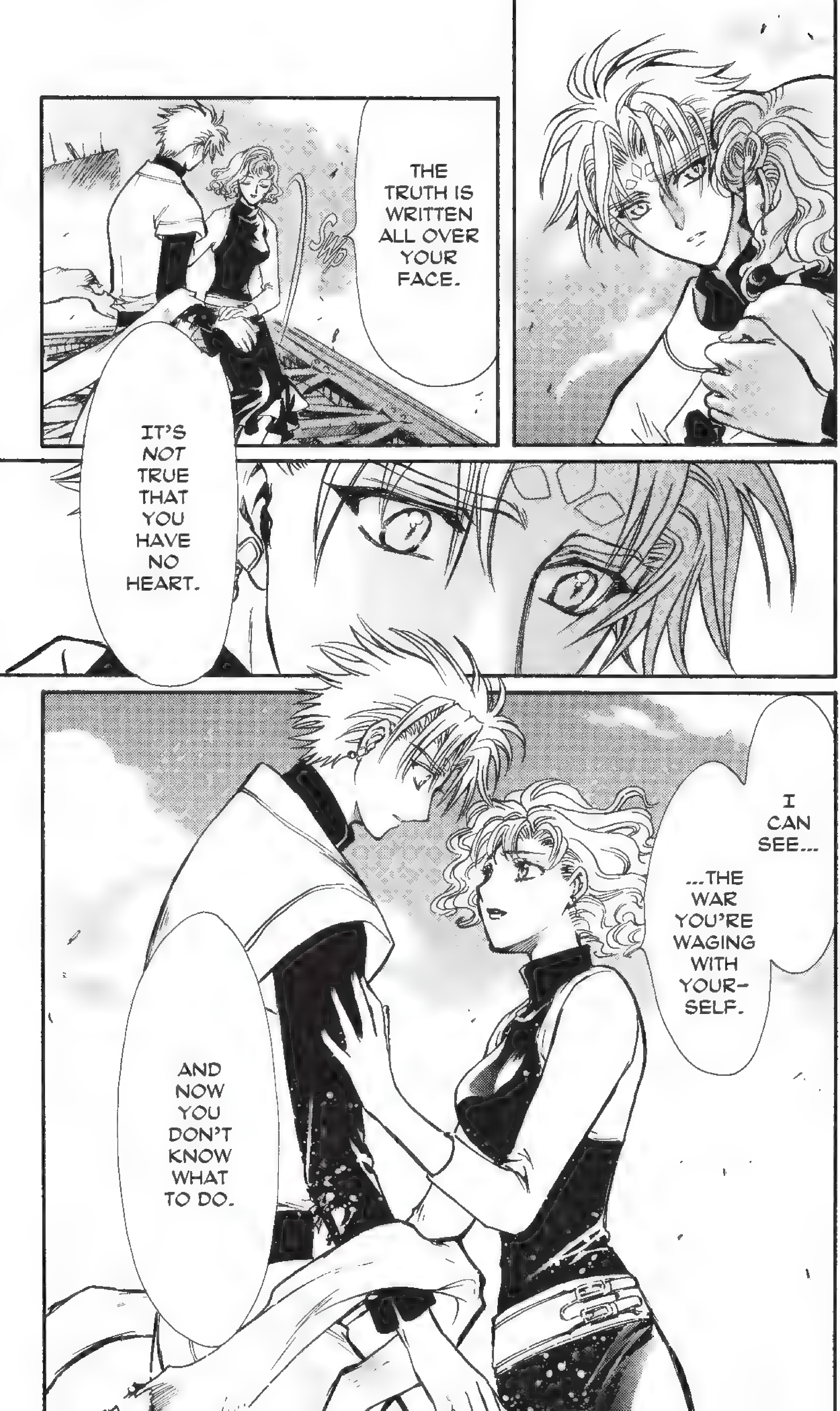

I GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT.
KAREN !!

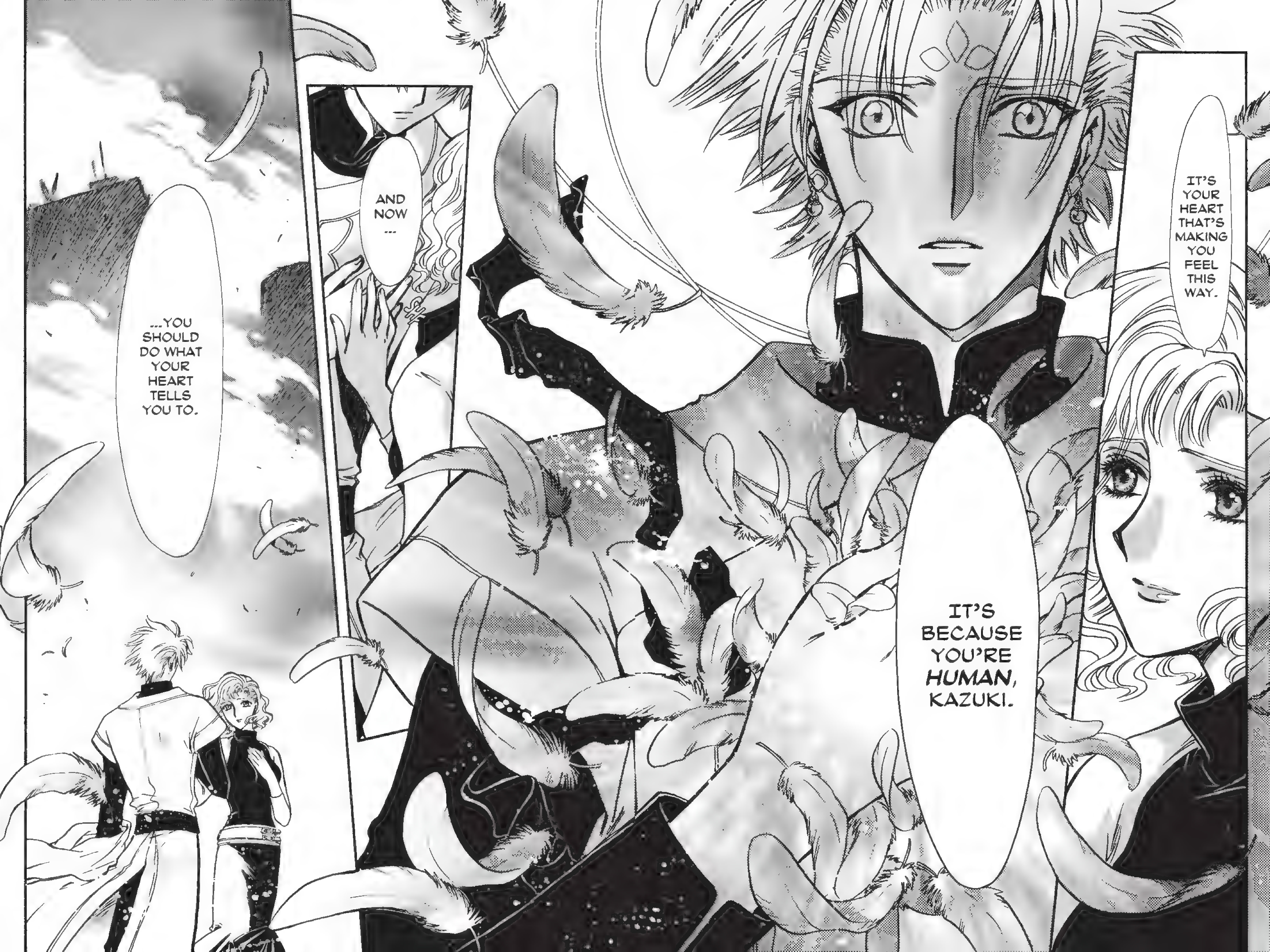
GOOM
SWISH
TMP

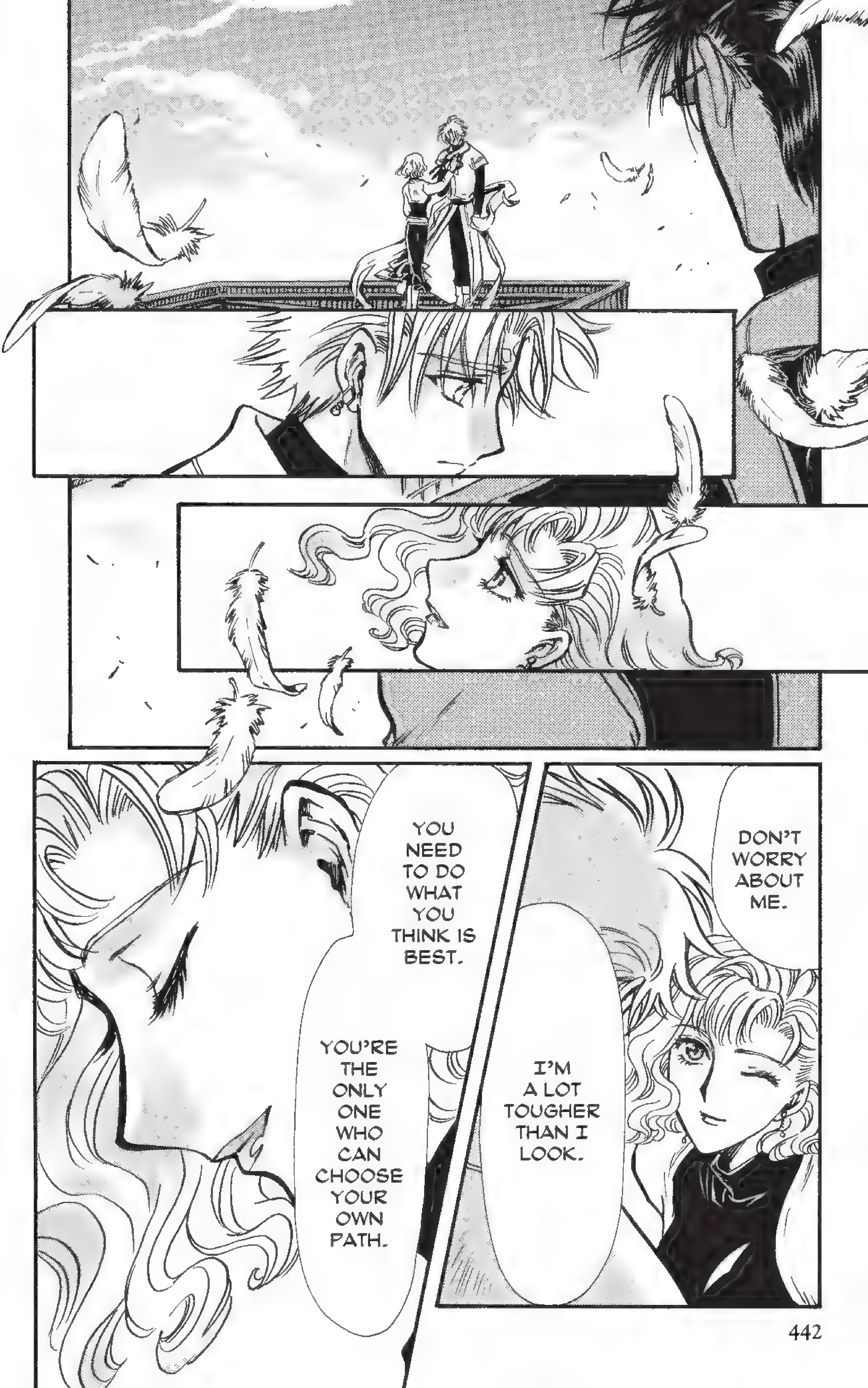

THERE ARE TWO KEKKAI COVERING THIS AREA.
ONE OF THEM ...
...WAS CREATED BY THE DRAGON OF HEAVEN YOU'RE HOLDING THERE.
I INTEND TO DESTROY GINZA.
TOTO
THAT CAN'T HAPPEN UNLESS THOSE TWO TAKE DOWN THEIR KEKKAI.
OF COURSE ...

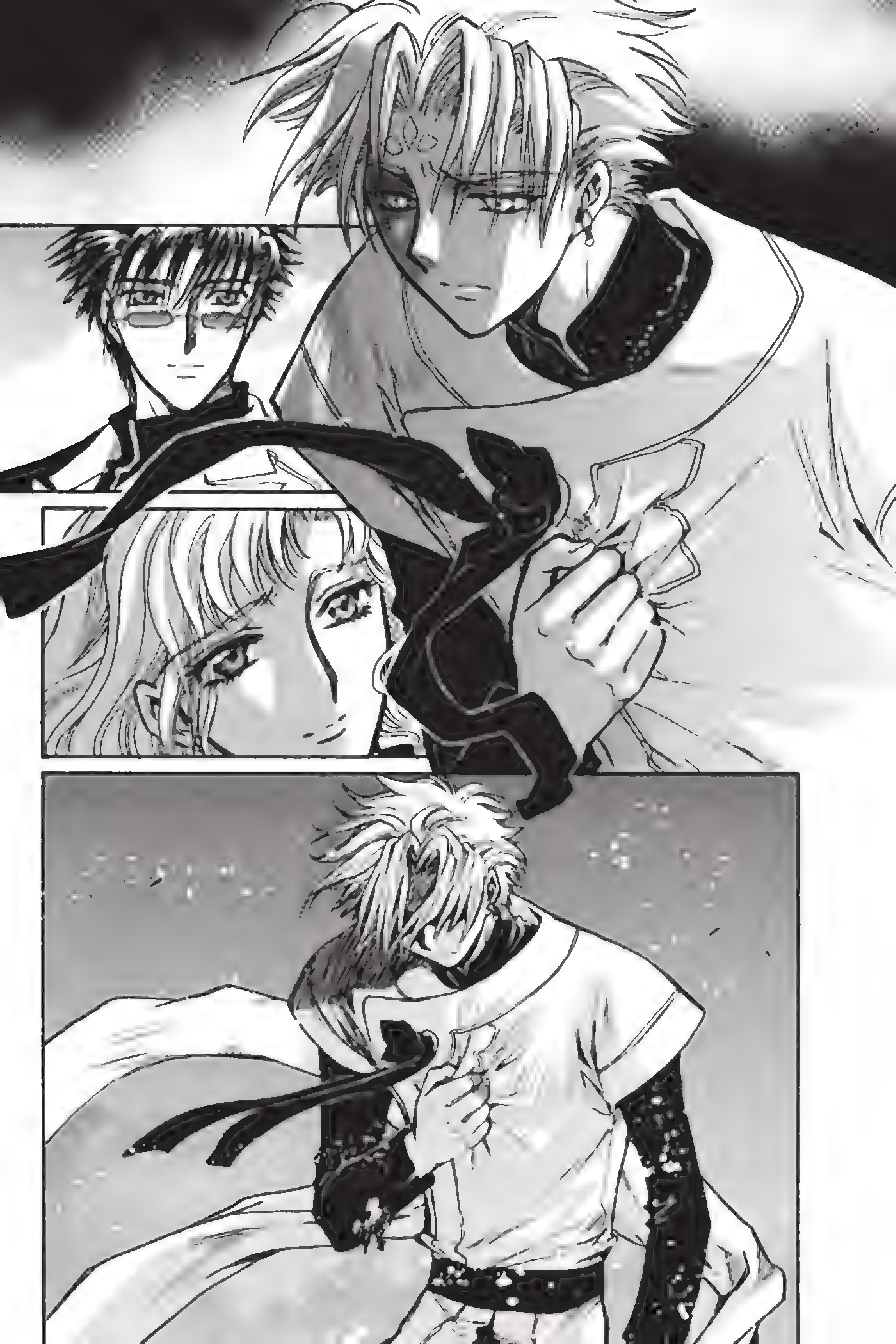

...I CAN GET THE SAME RESULT BY KILLING THEM.
LEAVING THEM ON THE BRINK OF DEATH WOULD WORK TOO.
I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I'D GO ABOUT DOING THAT.
FLN
LEAVE. NOW.
...

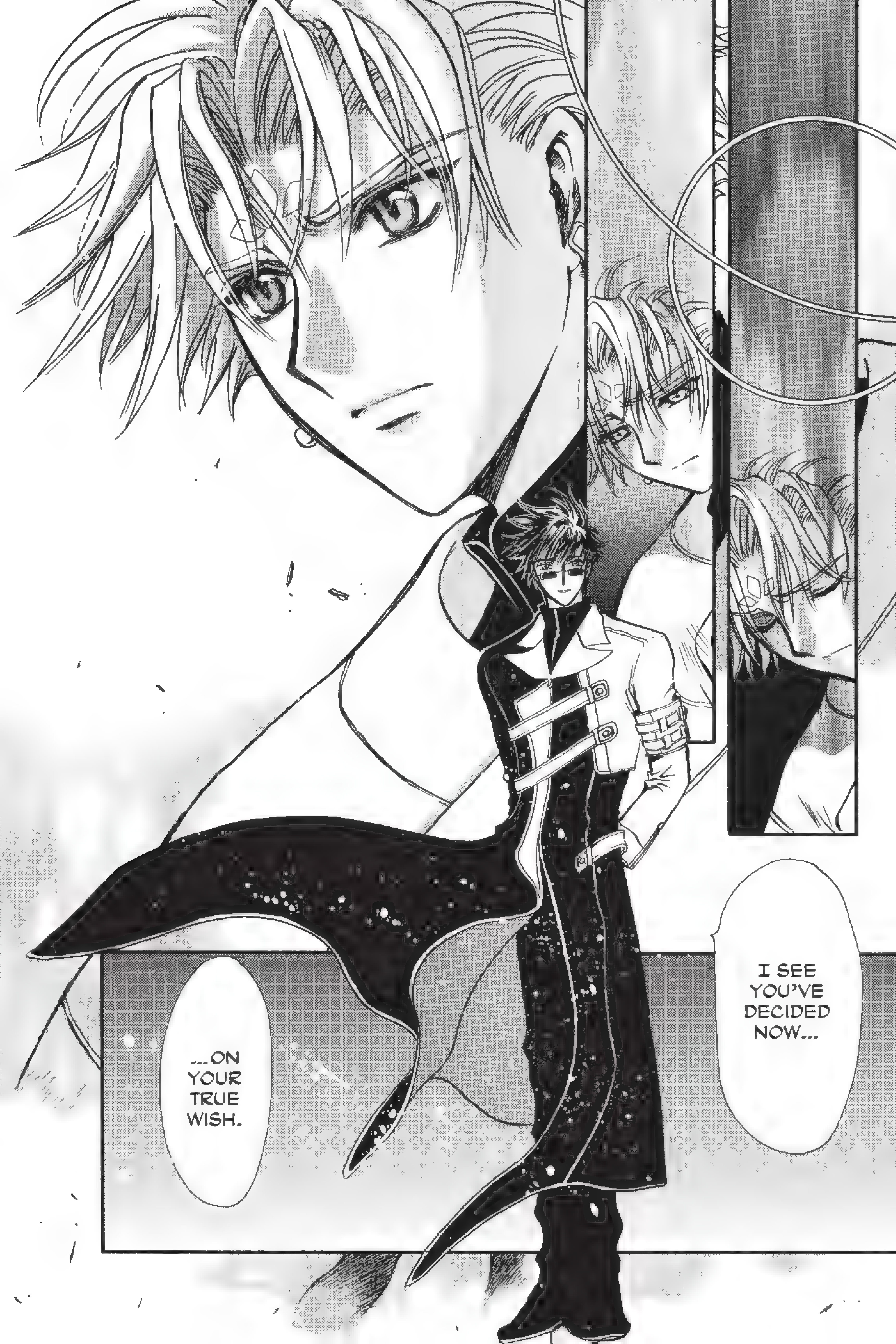

I'LL SAY IT ONE MORE TIME.
I WISH TO DESTROY THE KEKKAI HERE.
FLINCH
GO...
...KAZUKI.

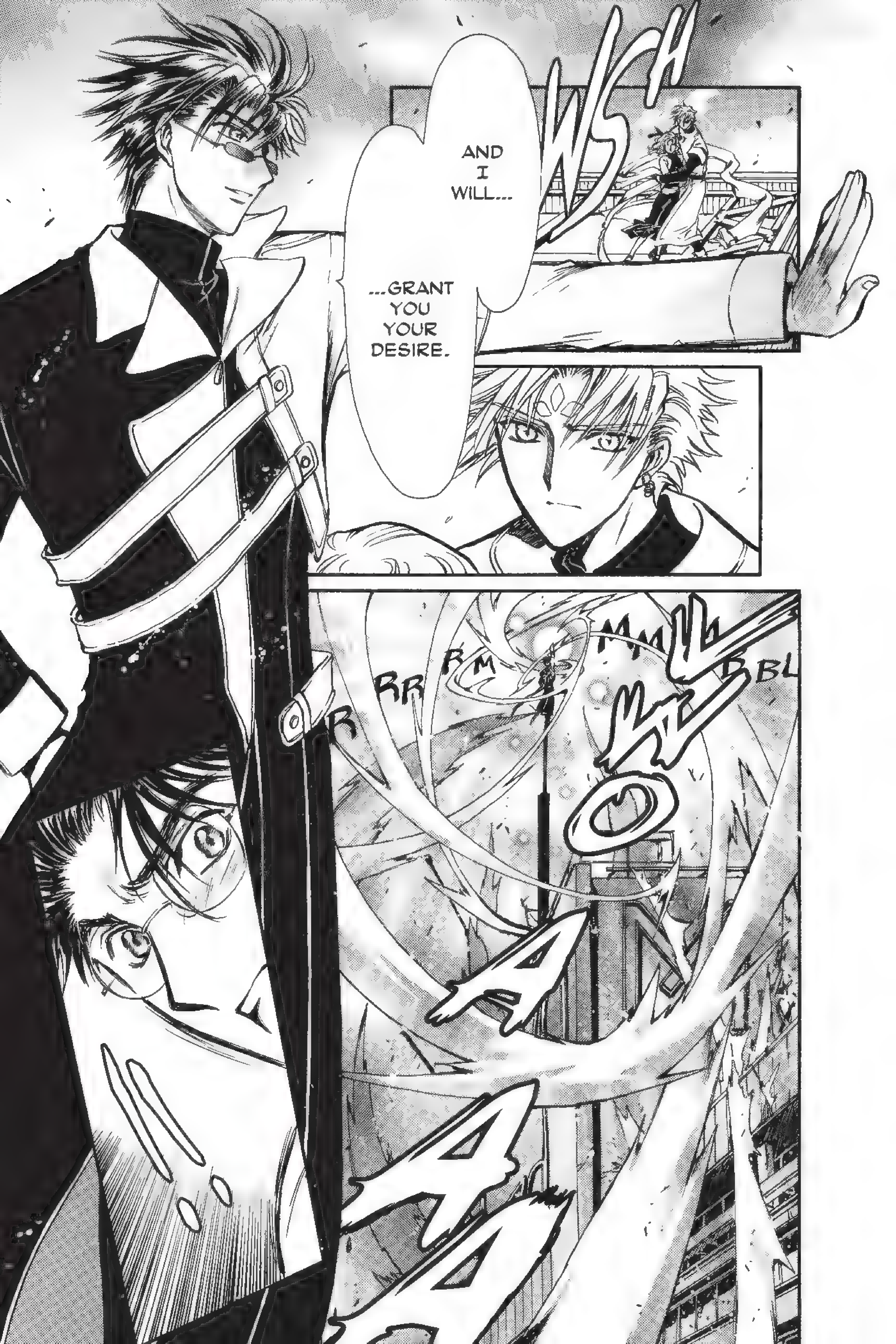

SWP
THE TRUTH IS WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE.
IT'S *NOT* TRUE THAT YOU HAVE NO HEART.
I CAN SEE...
...THE WAR YOU'RE WAGING WITH YOURSELF.
AND NOW YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

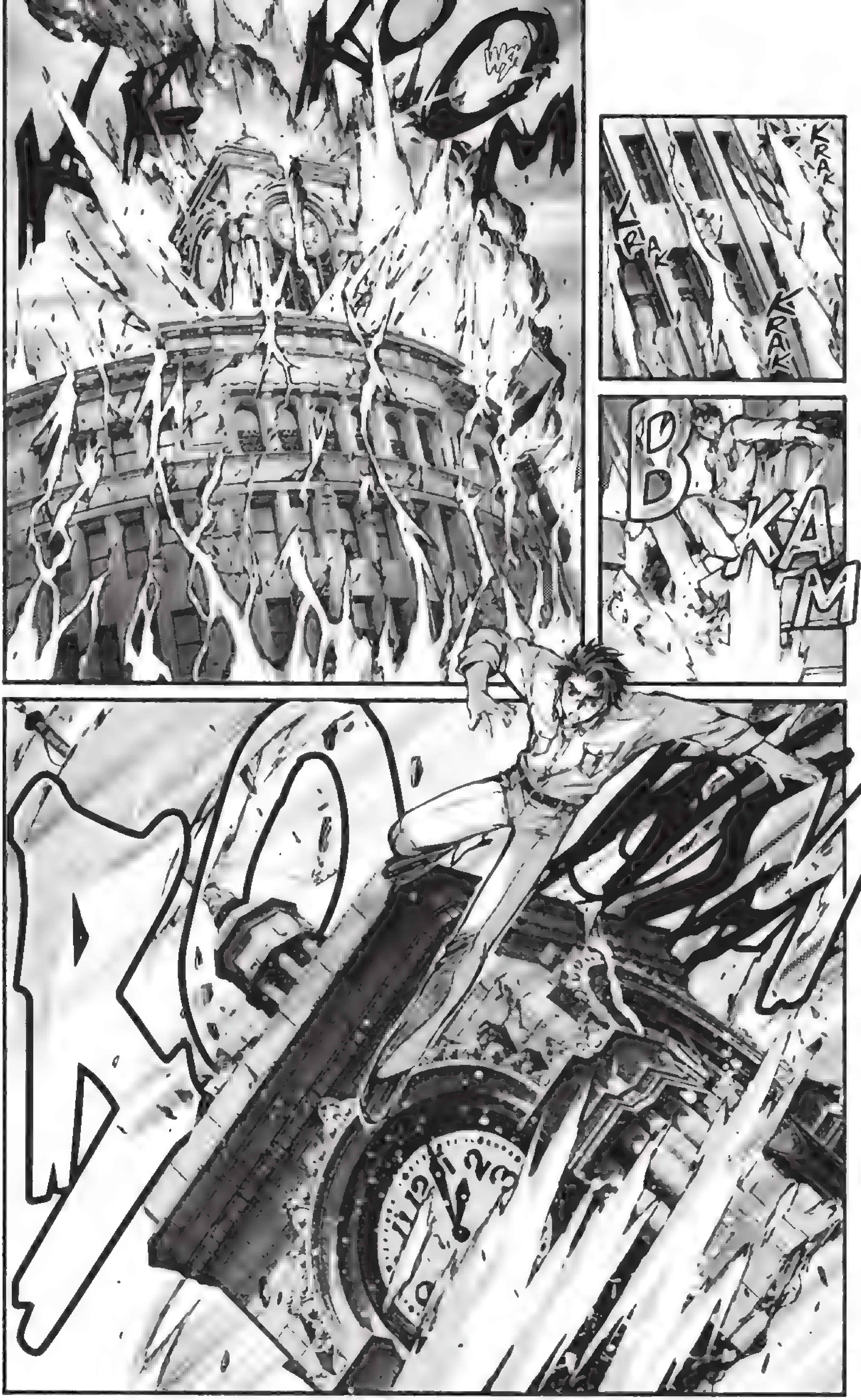

IT'S YOUR HEART THAT'S MAKING YOU FEEL THIS WAY.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE *HUMAN*, KAZUKI.
AND NOW ...
...YOU SHOULD DO WHAT YOUR HEART TELLS YOU TO.


DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
I'M A LOT TOUGHER THAN I LOOK.
YOU NEED TO DO WHAT YOU THINK IS BEST.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN CHOOSE YOUR OWN PATH.

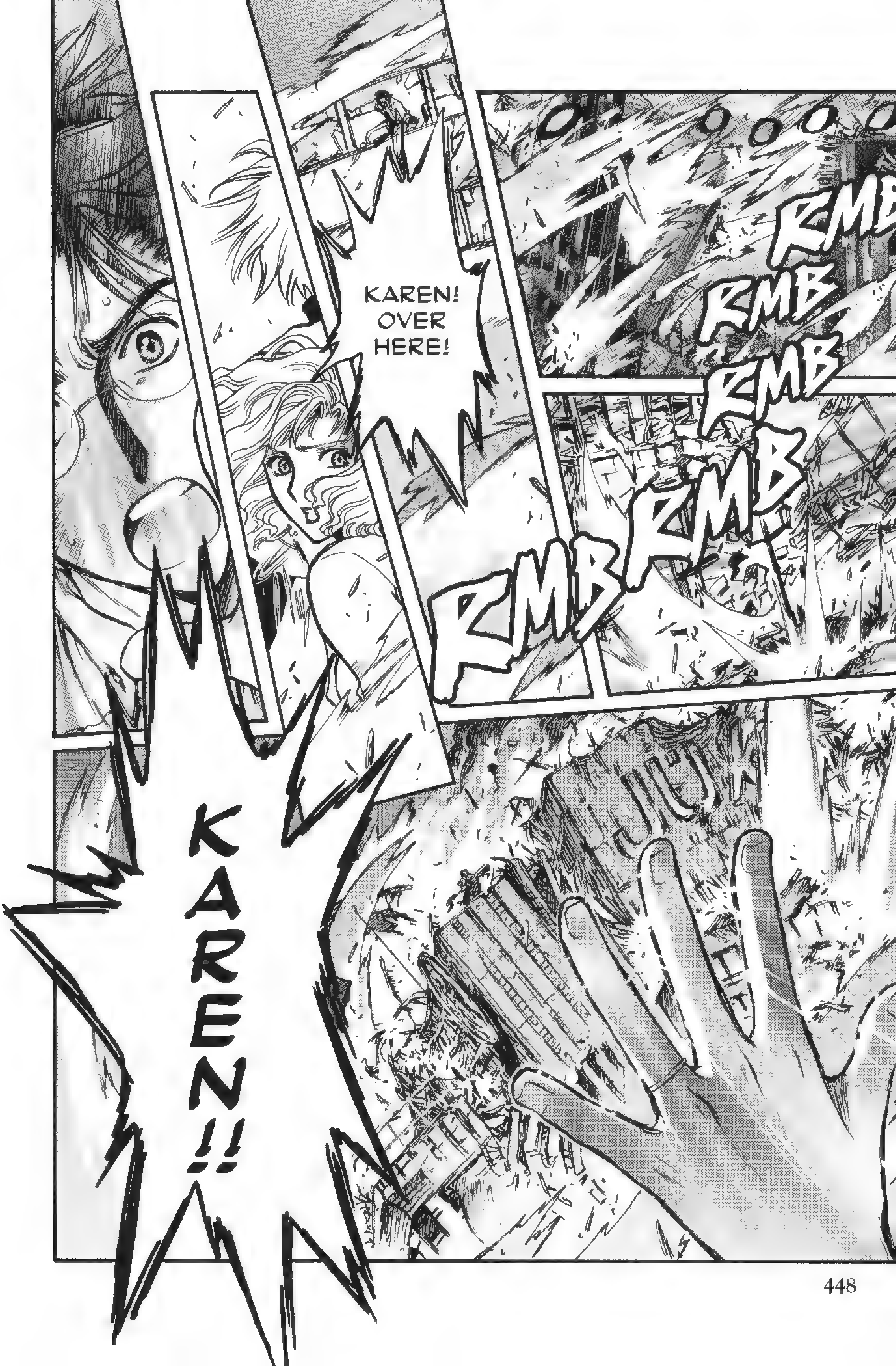


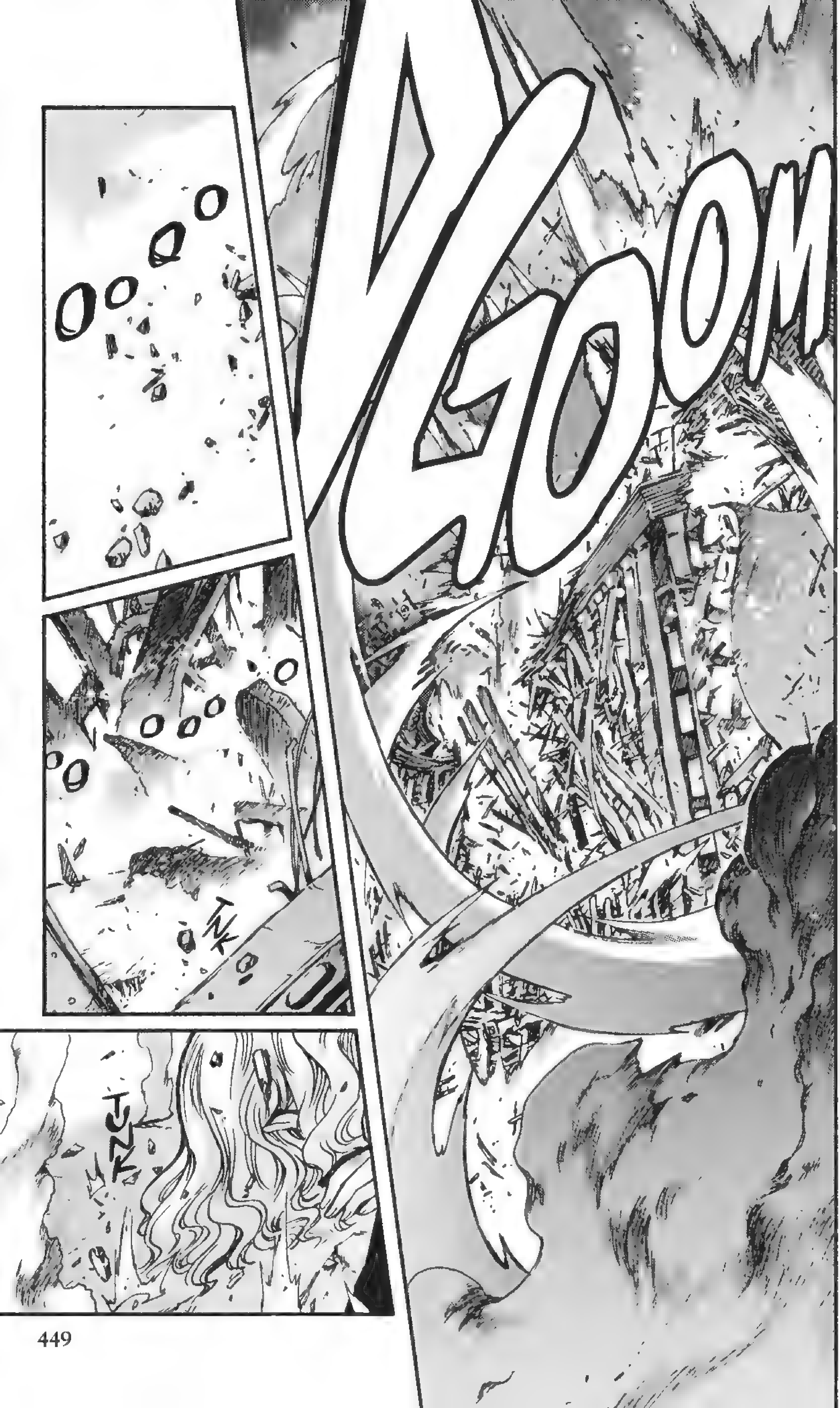

I SEE YOU'VE DECIDED NOW...
...ON YOUR TRUE WISH.

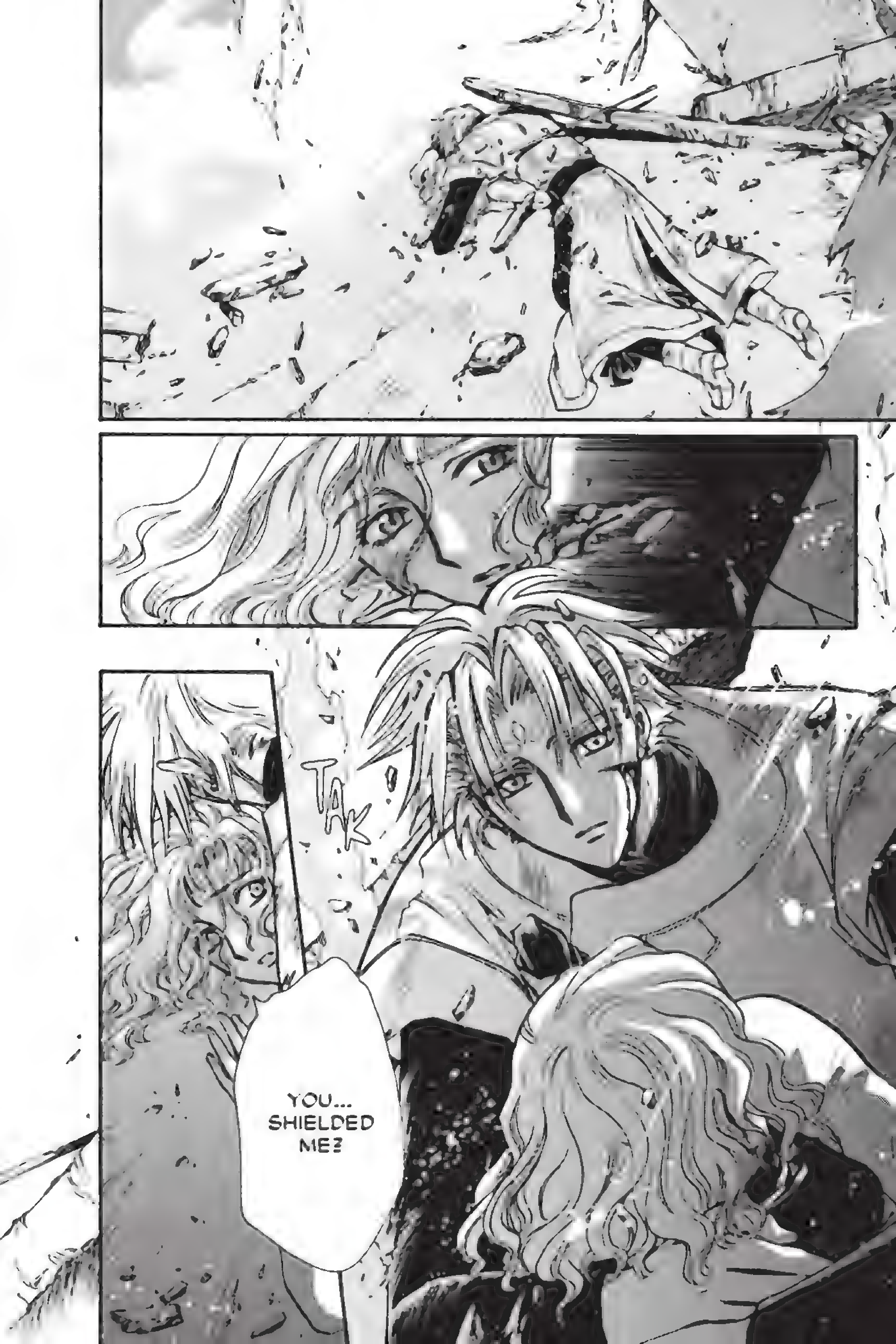

WSH
AND I WILL...
...GRANT YOU YOUR DESIRE.
RRRRMMMBL

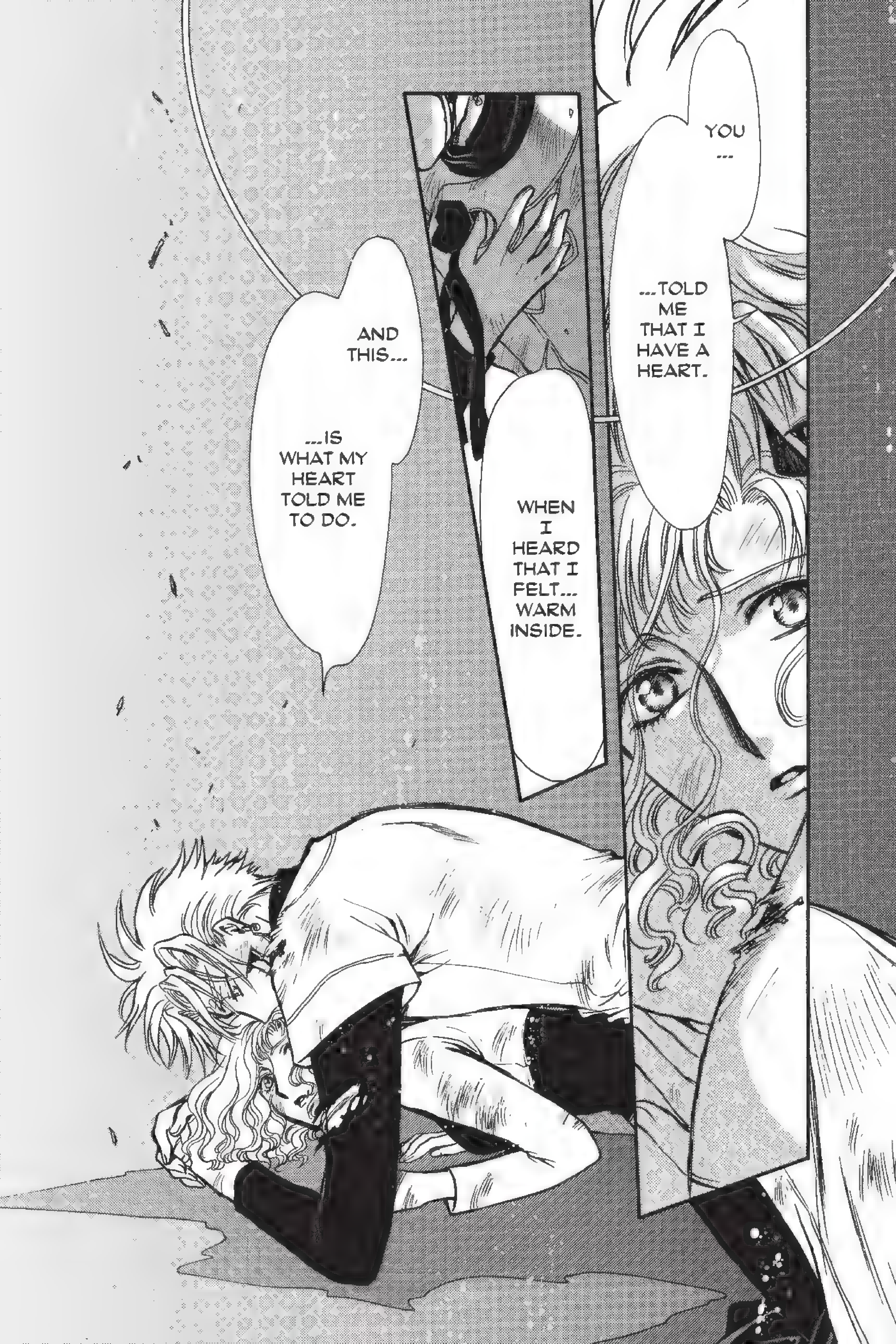

KAKOOM
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
BDKAM
KOOM

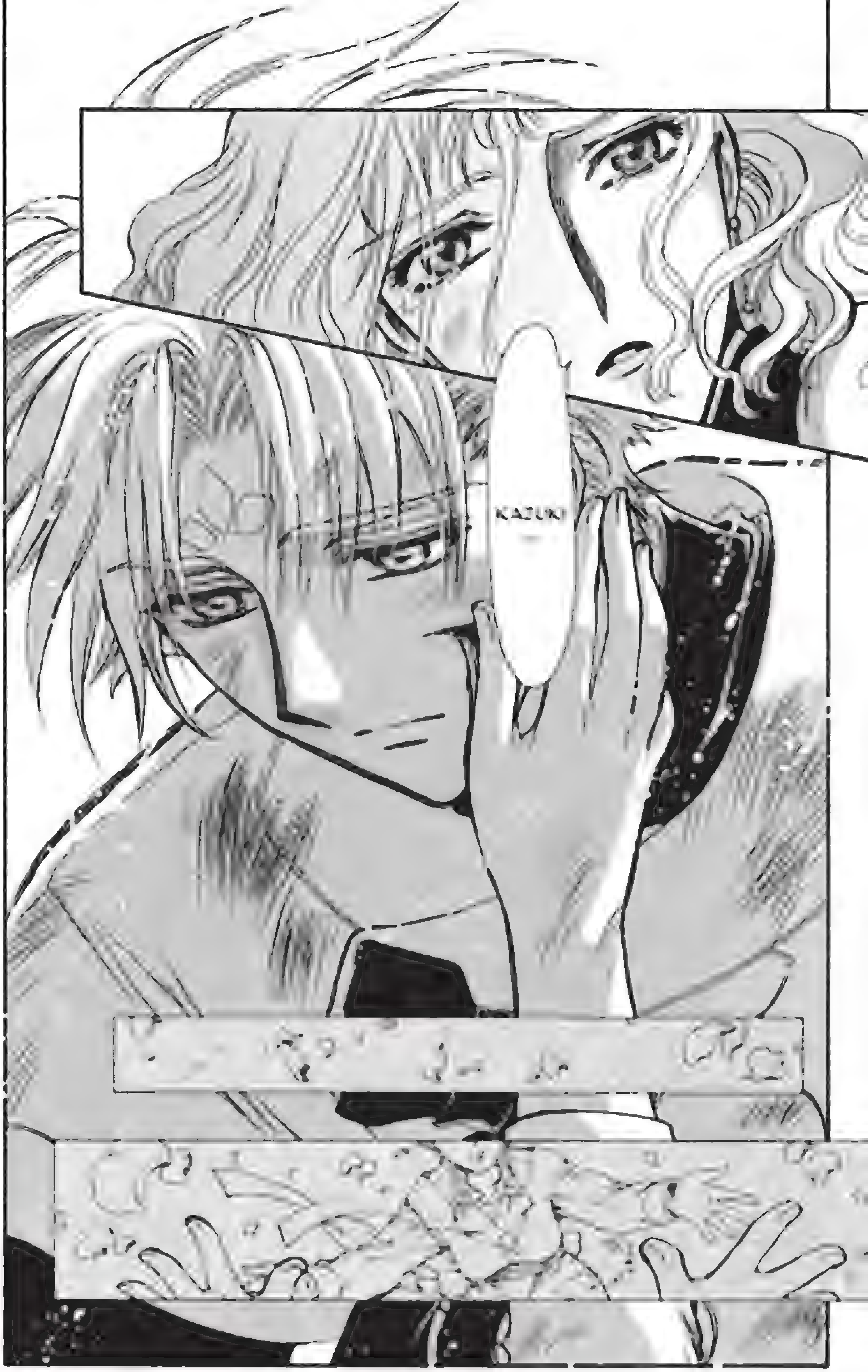
OOOOOOO
AAAR
VOOM


RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
KAREN! OVER HERE!
KAREN!!

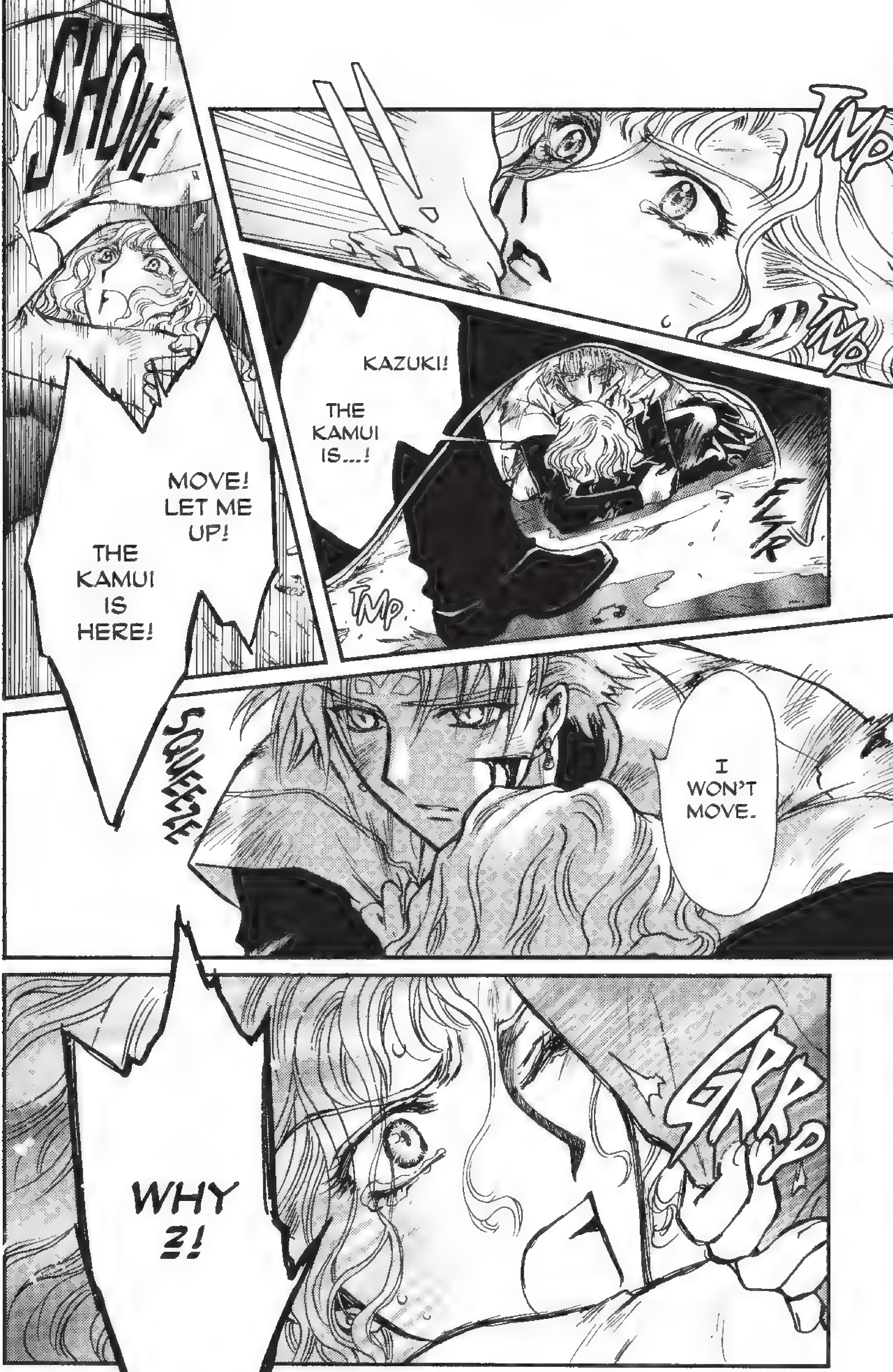

KGOOM
TINK
TUNK

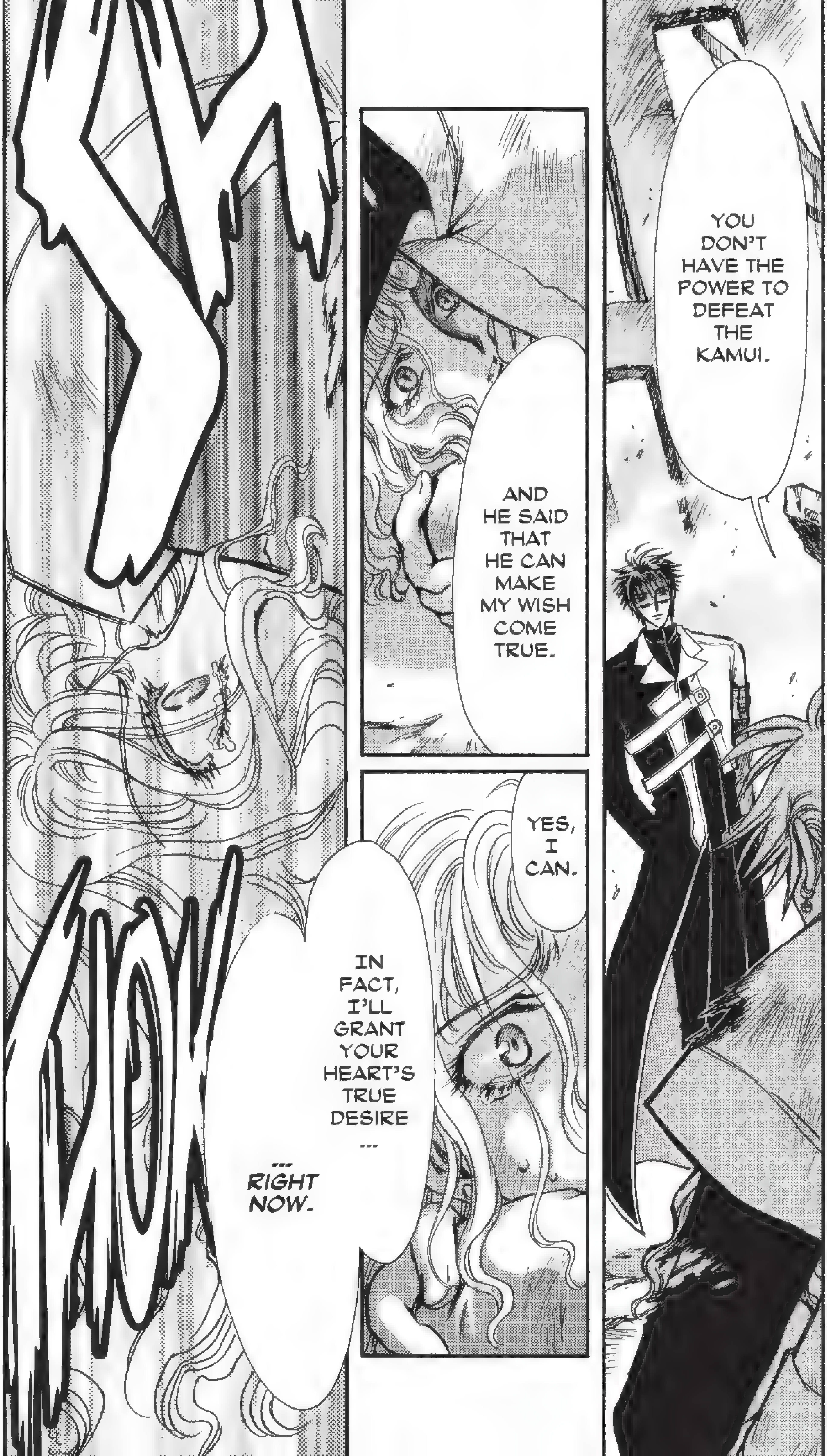

TAK
YOU... SHIELDED ME?

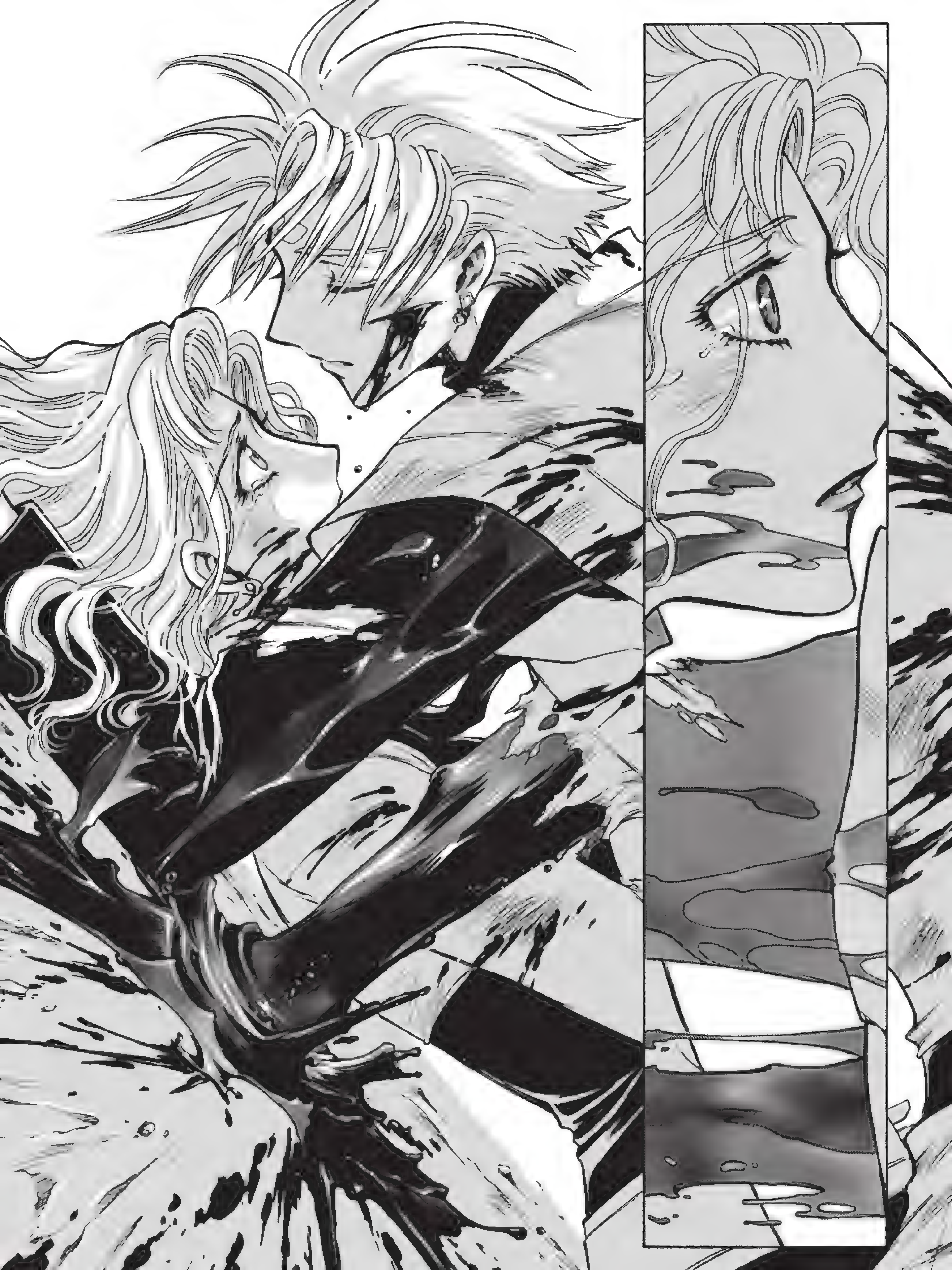

YOU ...
...TOLD ME THAT I HAVE A HEART.
WHEN I HEARD THAT I FELT... WARM INSIDE.
AND THIS...
...IS WHAT MY HEART TOLD ME TO DO.

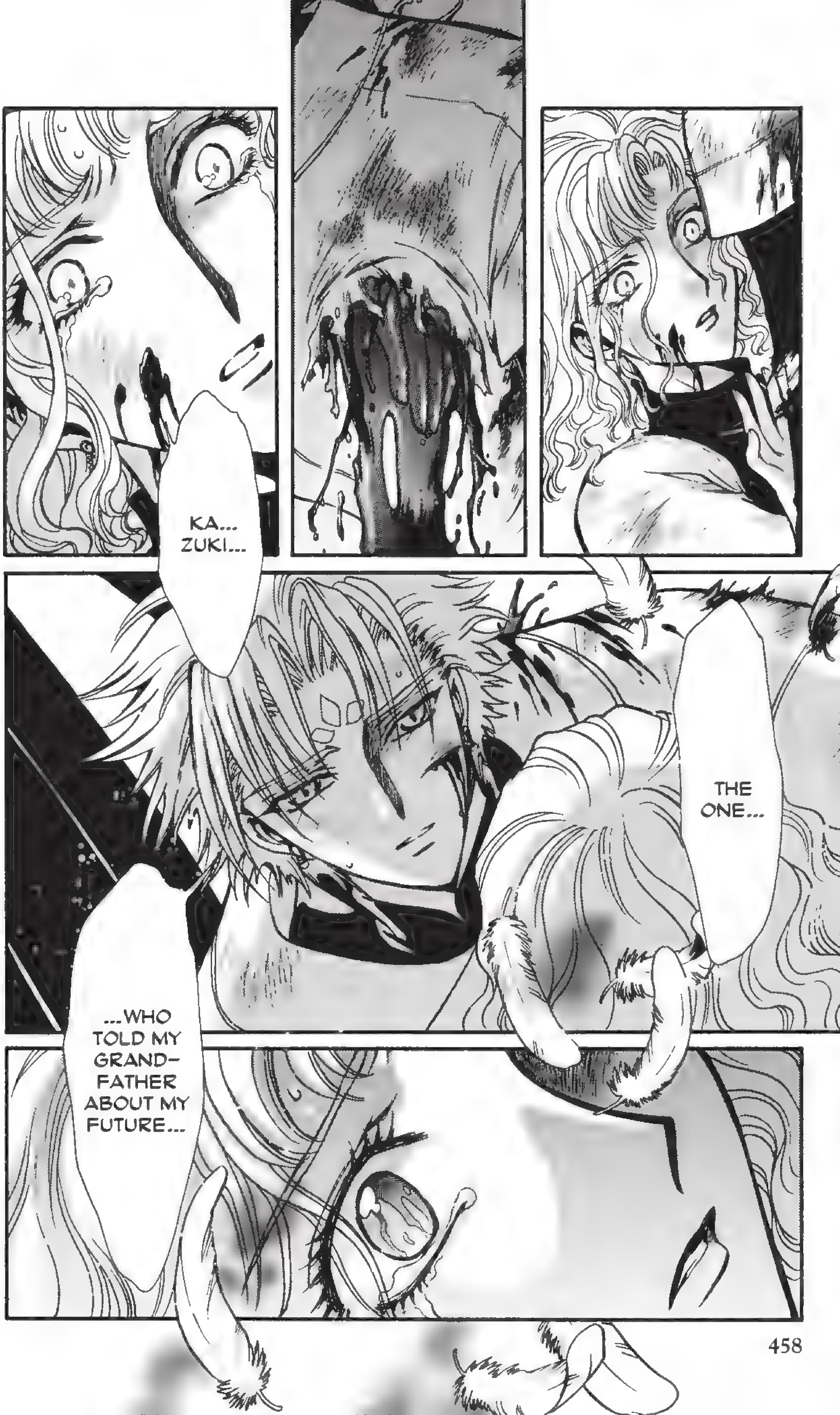

KAZUKI

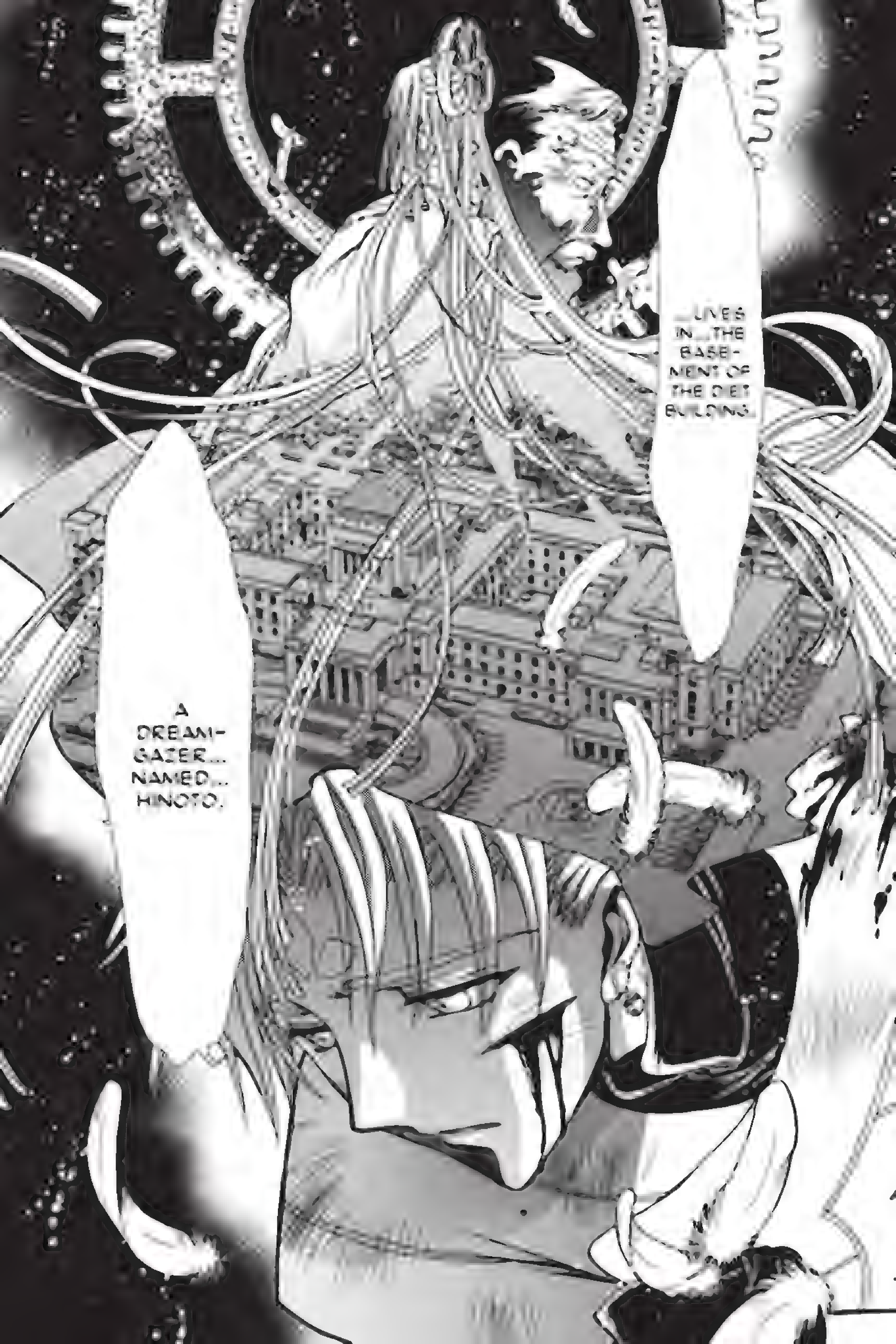
TMP
TMP

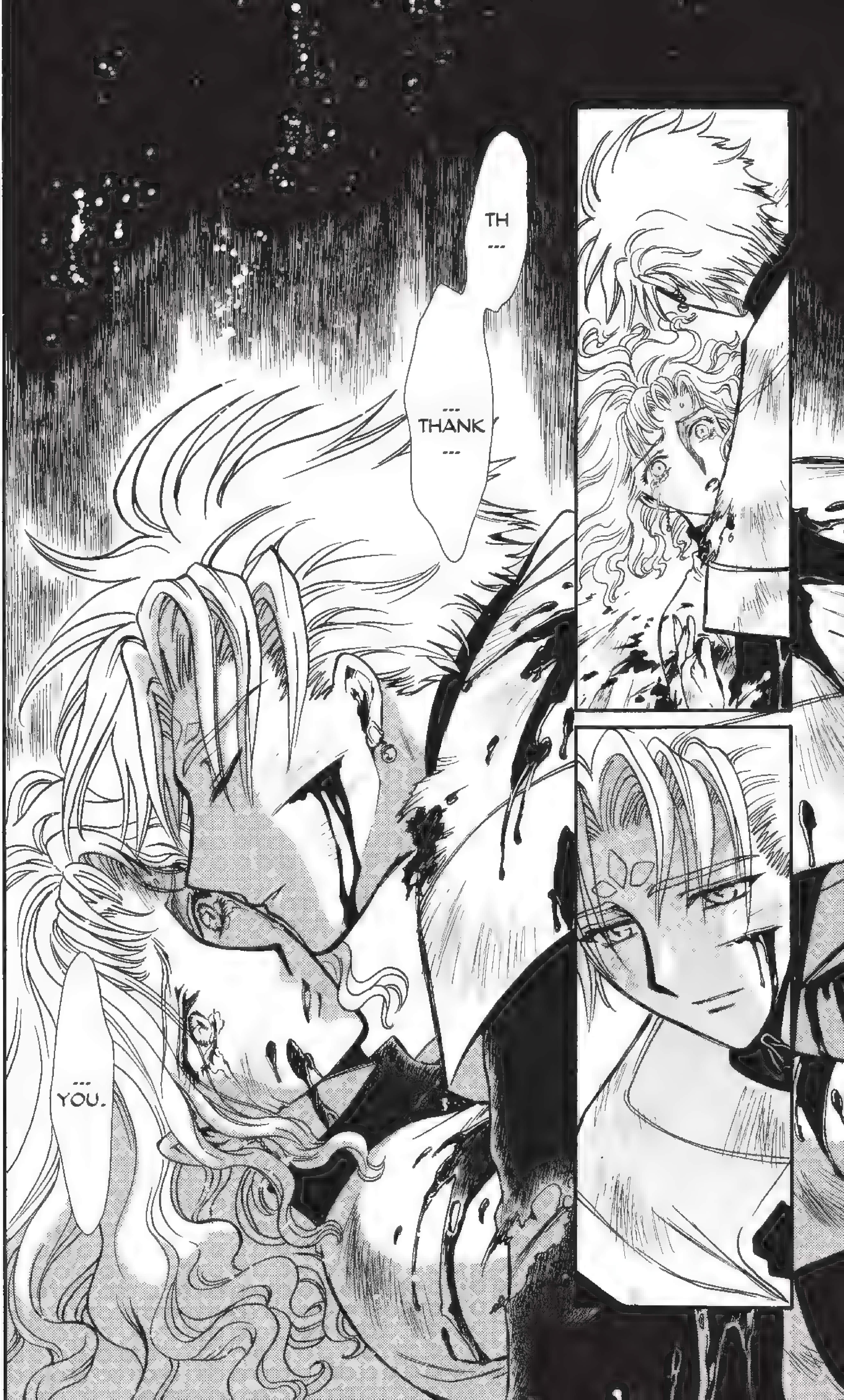

TMP
TMP
SHOVE
KAZUKI!
THE KAMUI IS...!
CLINK
TMP
MOVE! LET ME UP!
THE KAMUI IS HERE!
I WON'T MOVE.
SQUEEZE
GRAB
WHY?!

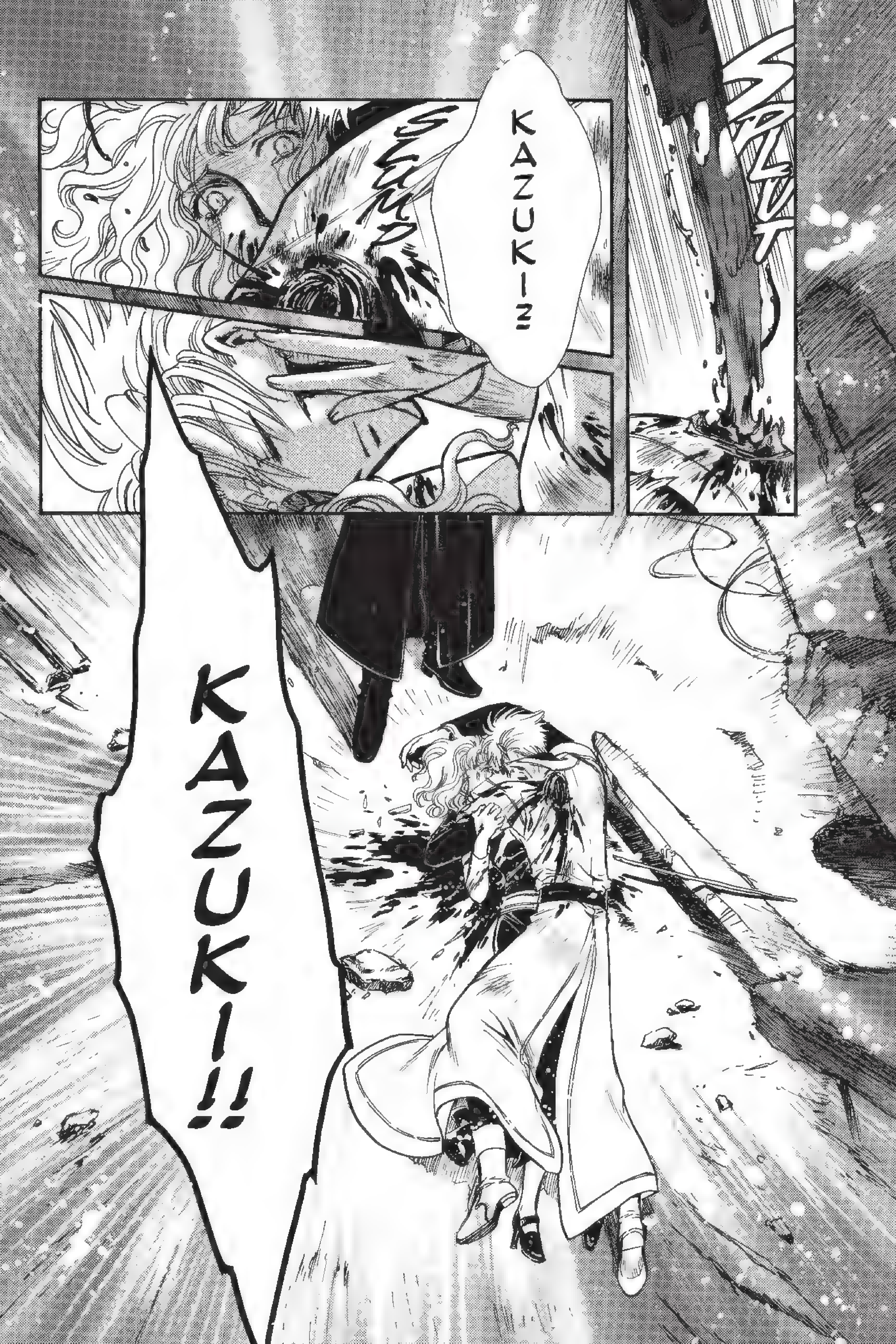

YOU DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO DEFEAT THE KAMUI.
AND HE SAID THAT HE CAN MAKE MY WISH COME TRUE.
YES, I CAN.
IN FACT, I'LL GRANT YOUR HEART'S TRUE DESIRE ...
... RIGHT NOW.

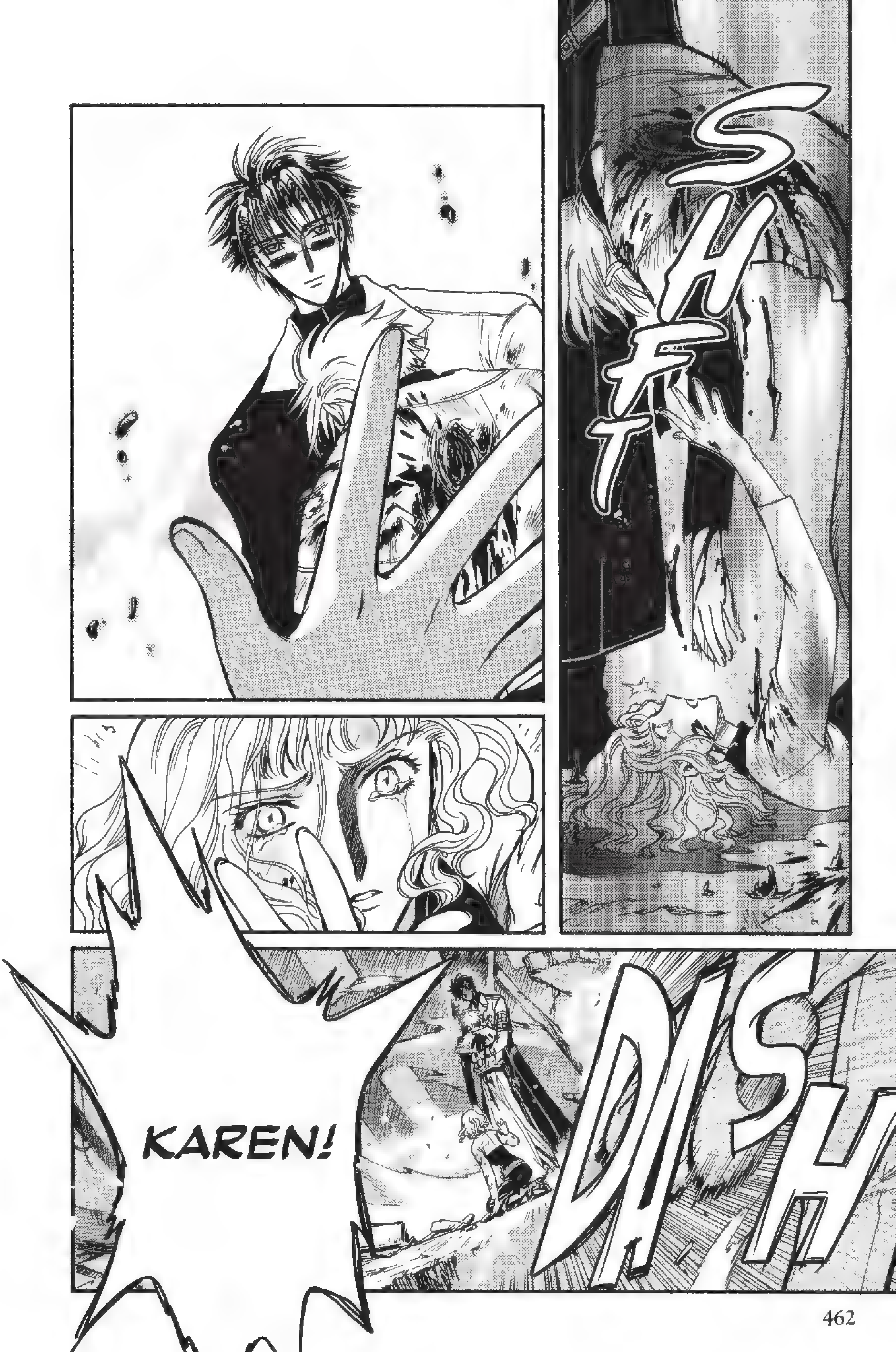


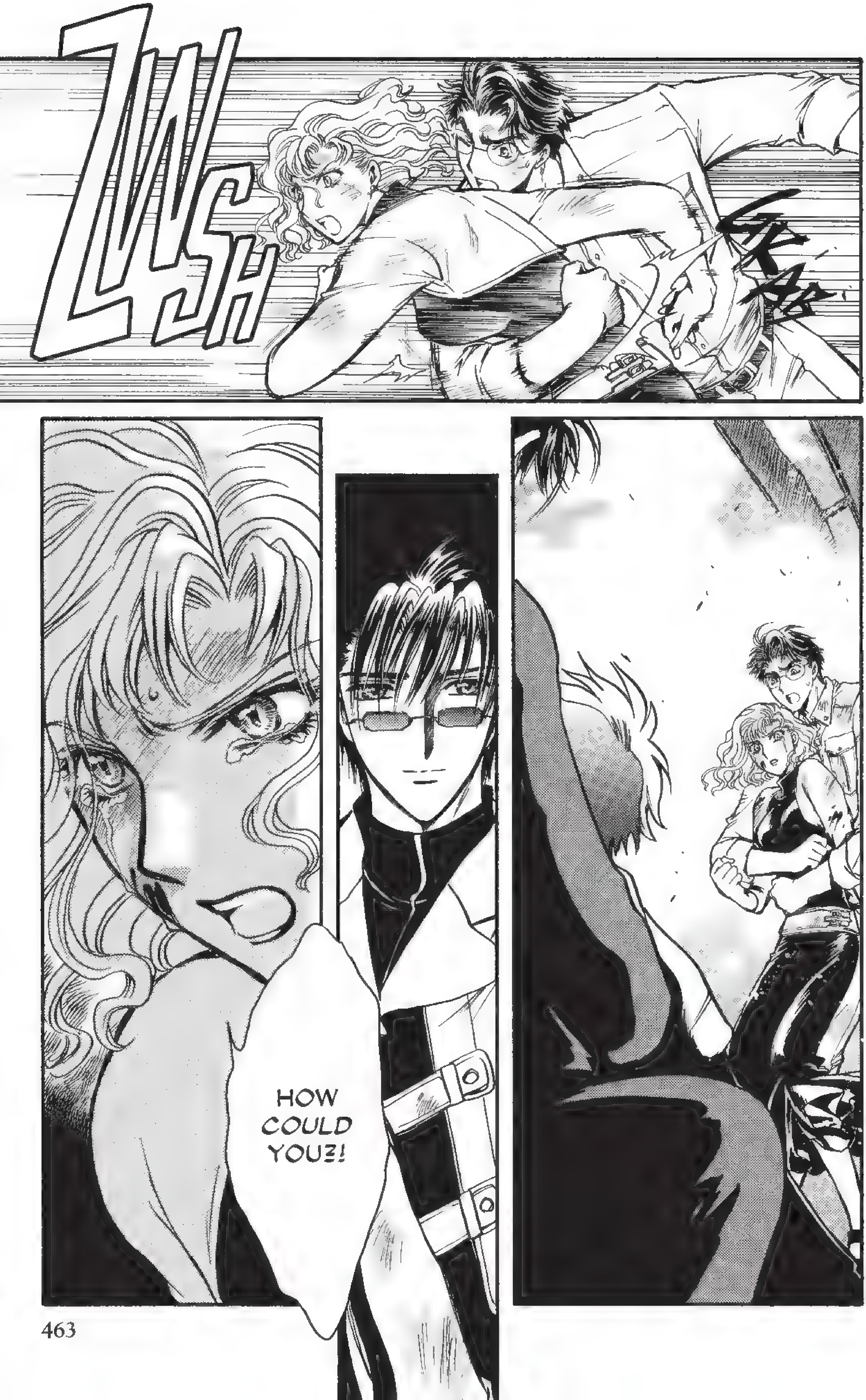

KA... ZUKI...
THE ONE...
...WHO TOLD MY GRAND-FATHER ABOUT MY FUTURE...

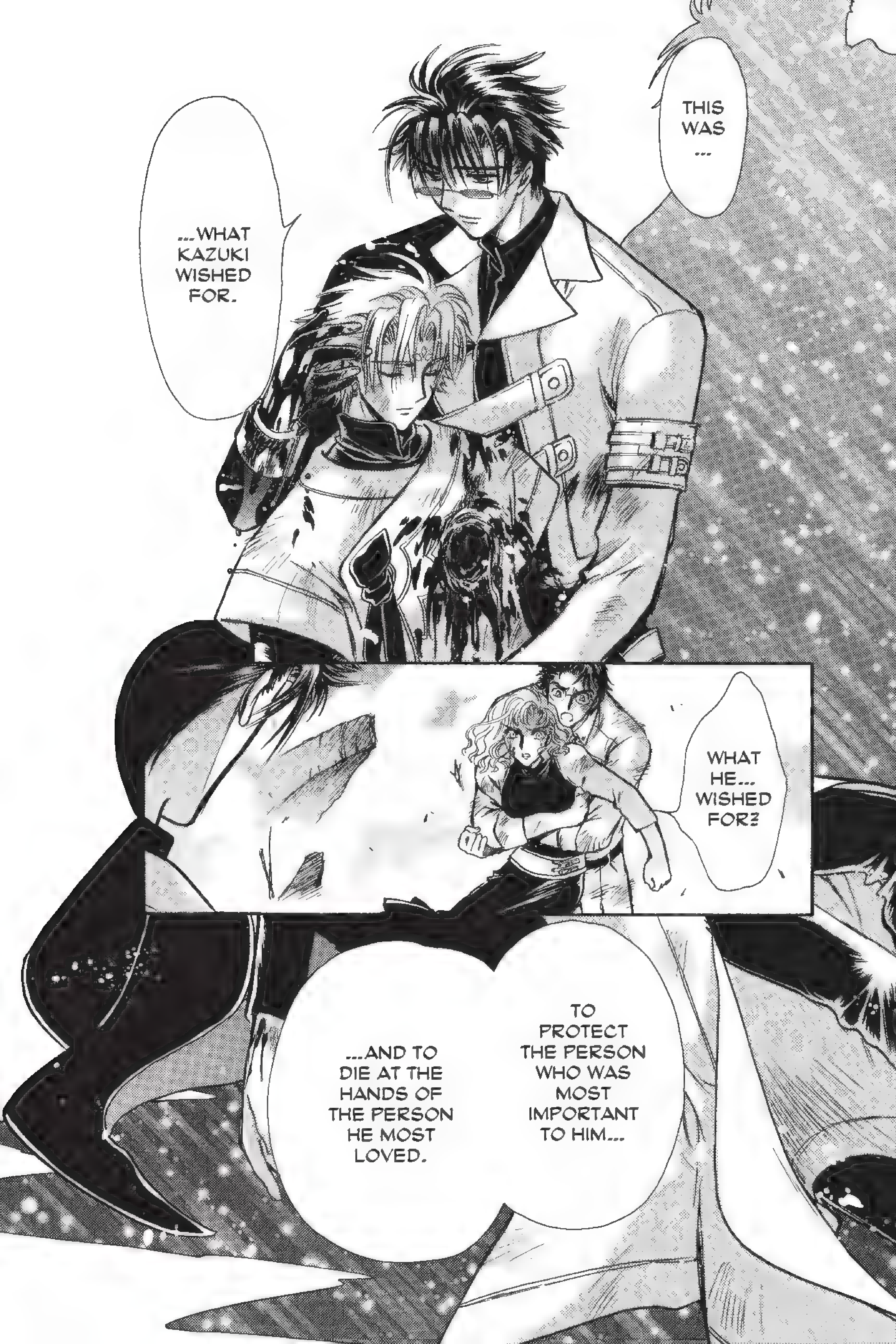

...LIVES IN...THE BASEMENT OF THE DIET BUILDING...
A DREAM-GAZER... NAMED... HINOTO.

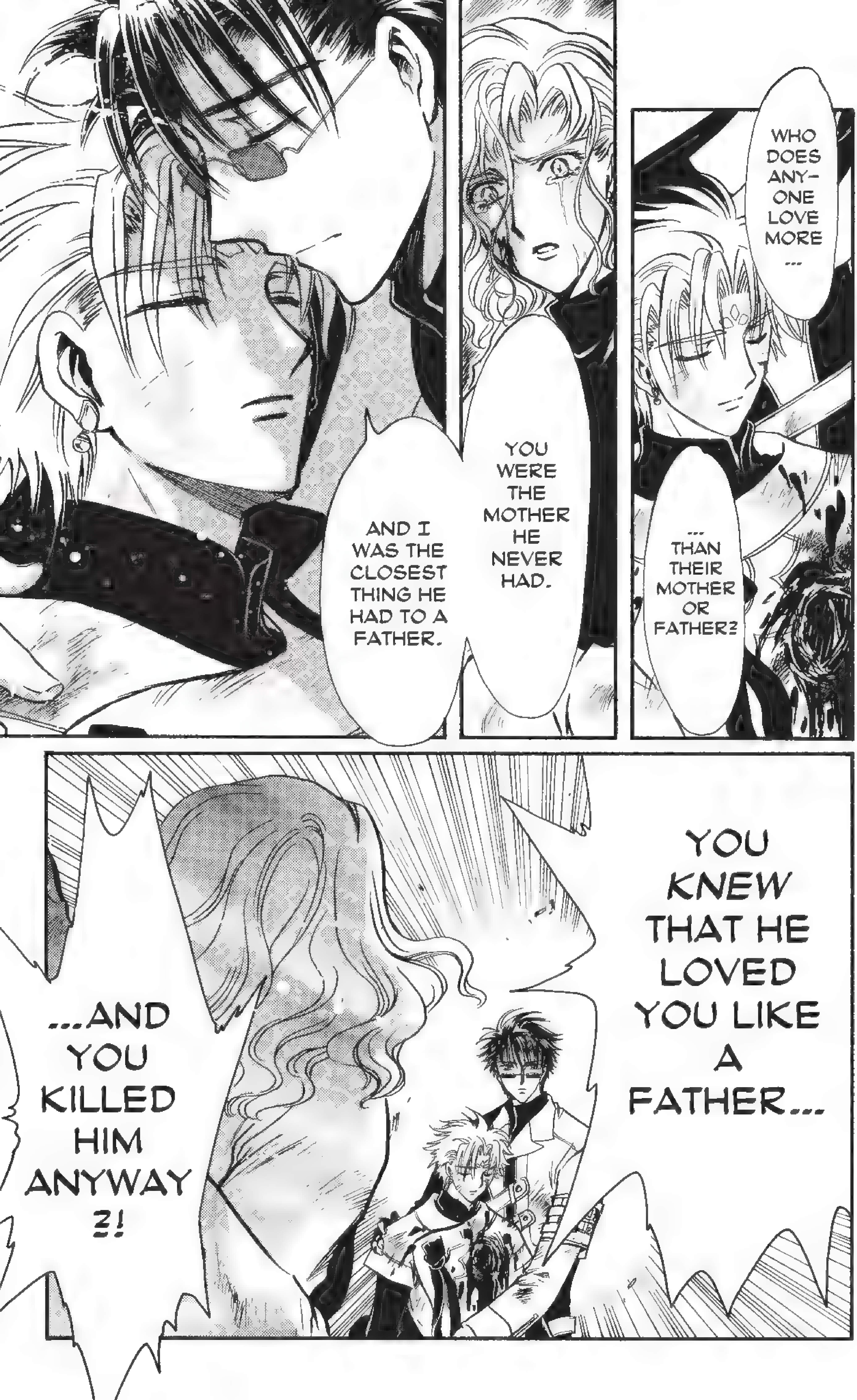

TH---
---THANK---
---YOU.

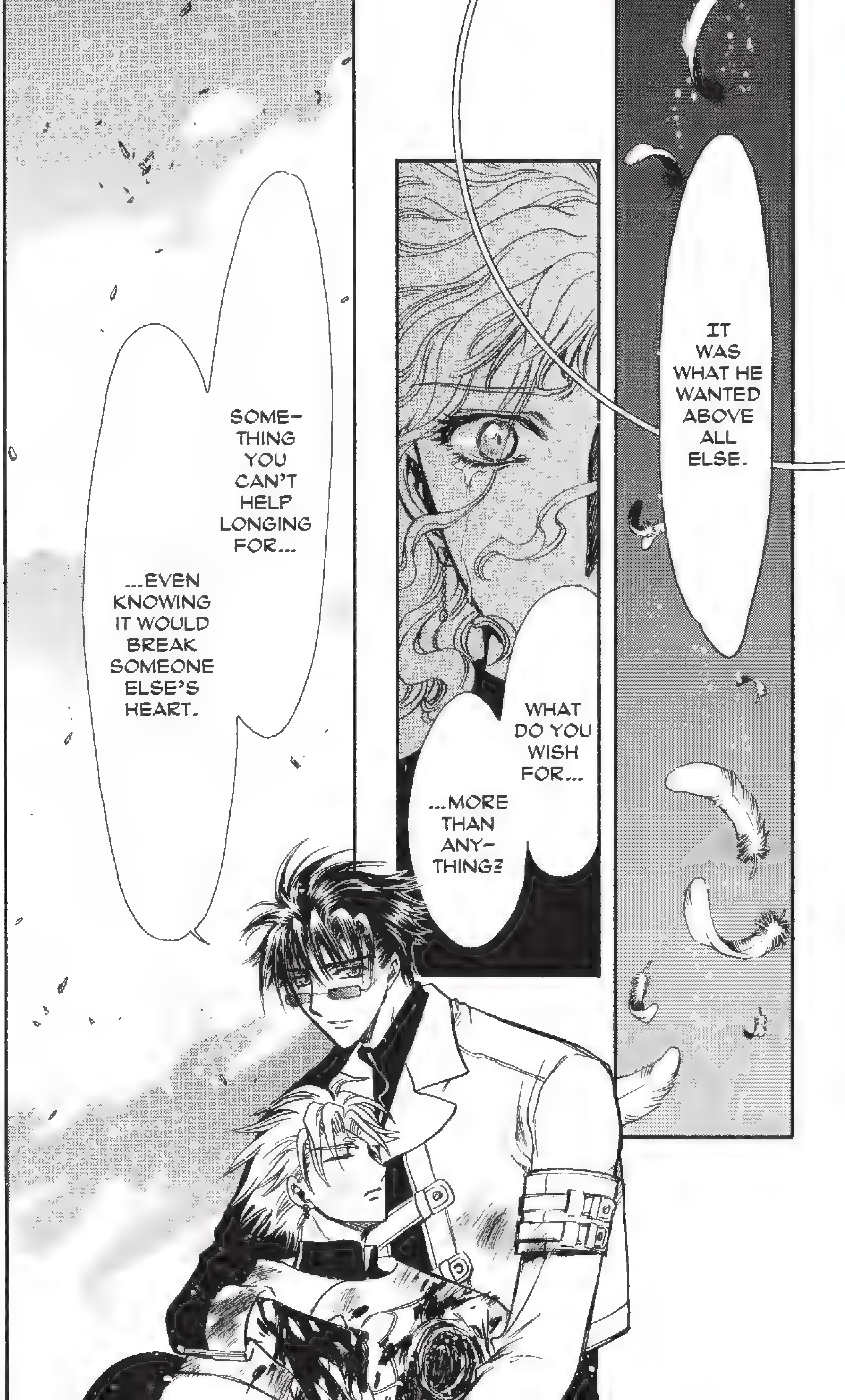

SHUNK
KAZUKI!
KAZUKI!!

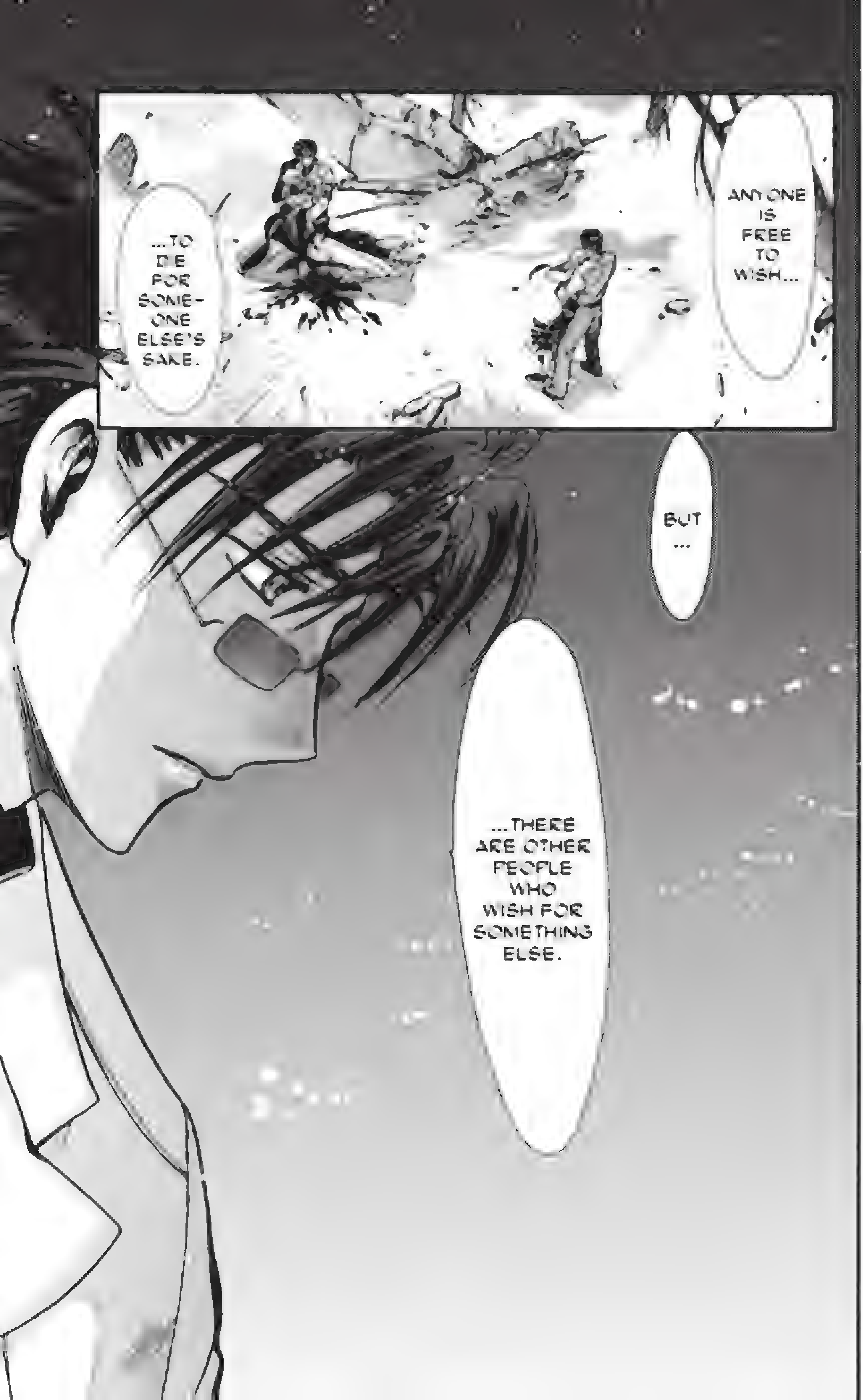

SHFFT
KAREN!
DASH

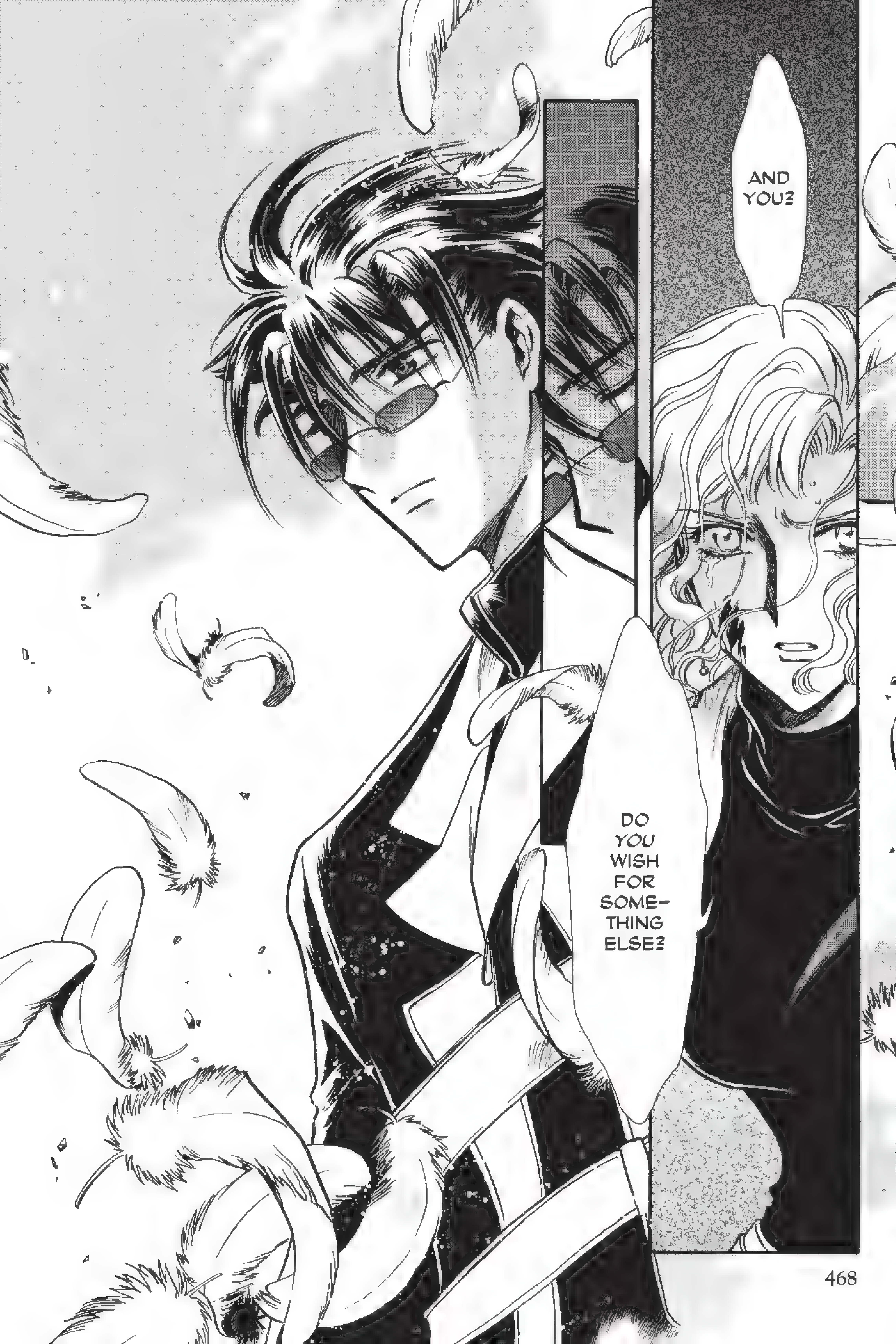

ZWASH
GRAB
HOW COULD YOU?!

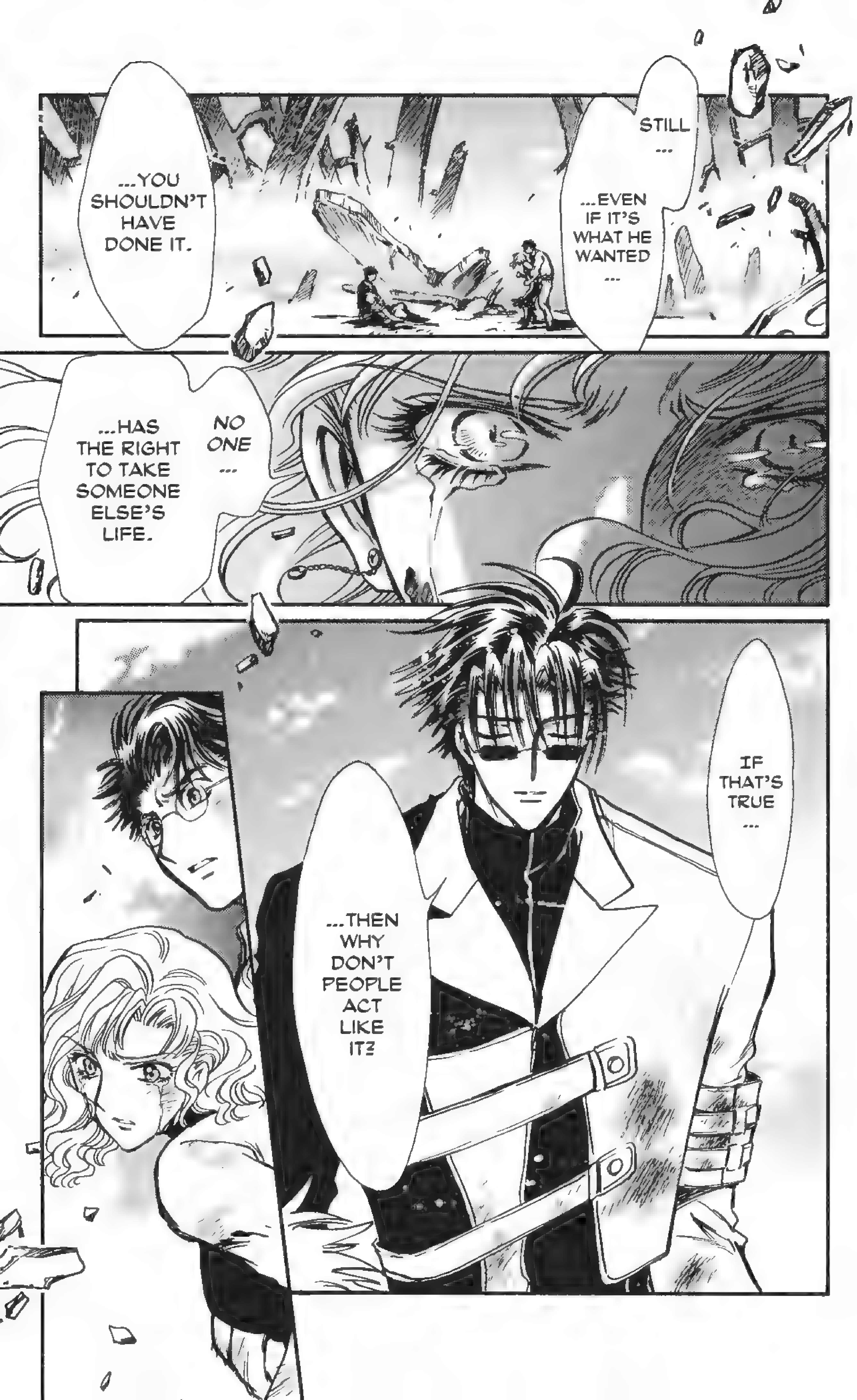

THIS WAS ...
...WHAT KAZUKI WISHED FOR.
WHAT HE... WISHED FOR?
TO PROTECT THE PERSON WHO WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO HIM...
...AND TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF THE PERSON HE MOST LOVED.

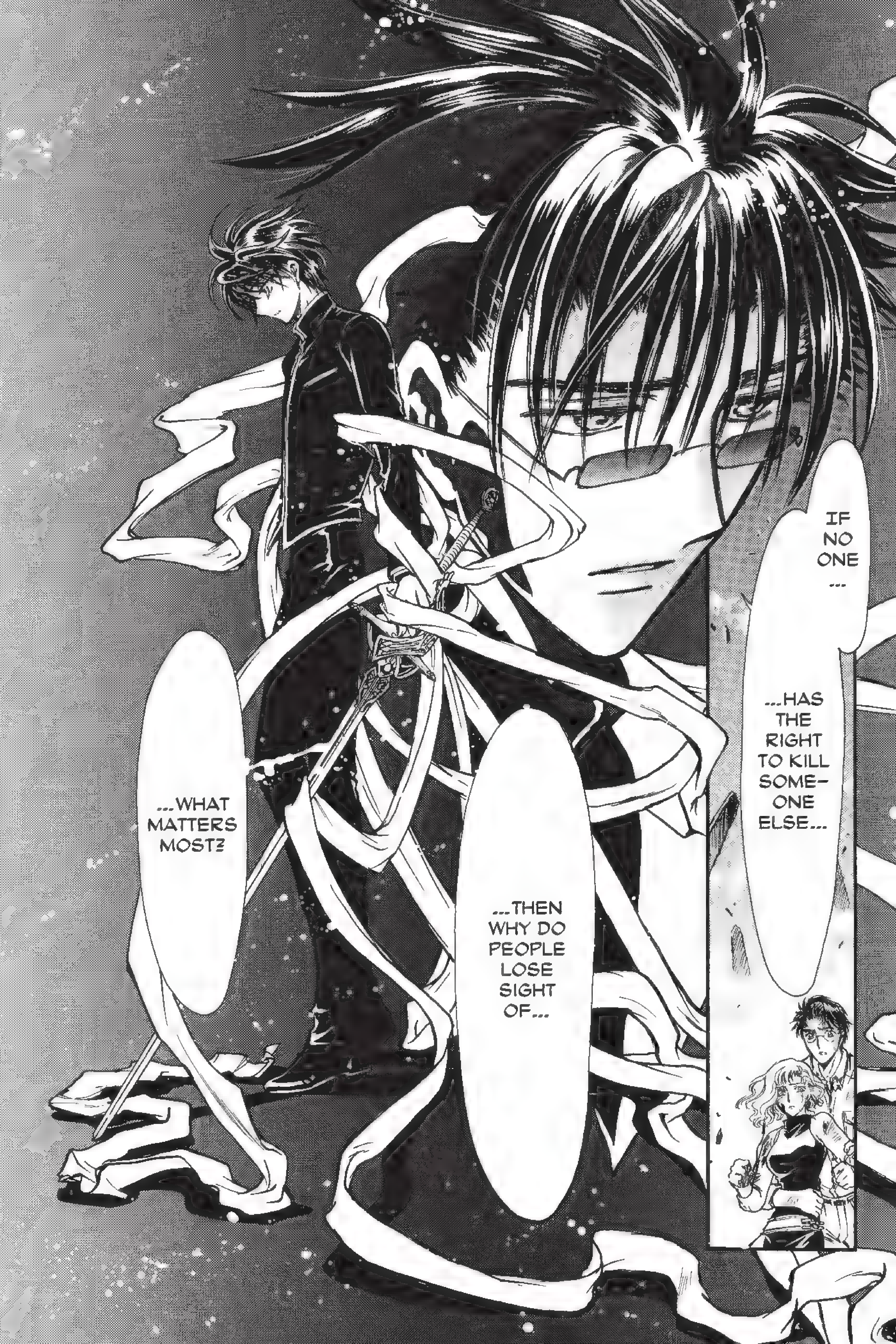

WHO DOES ANYONE LOVE MORE...
...THAN THEIR MOTHER OR FATHER?
YOU WERE THE MOTHER HE NEVER HAD.
AND I WAS THE CLOSEST THING HE HAD TO A FATHER.
YOU *KNEW* THAT HE LOVED YOU LIKE A FATHER...
...AND YOU KILLED HIM ANYWAY?!

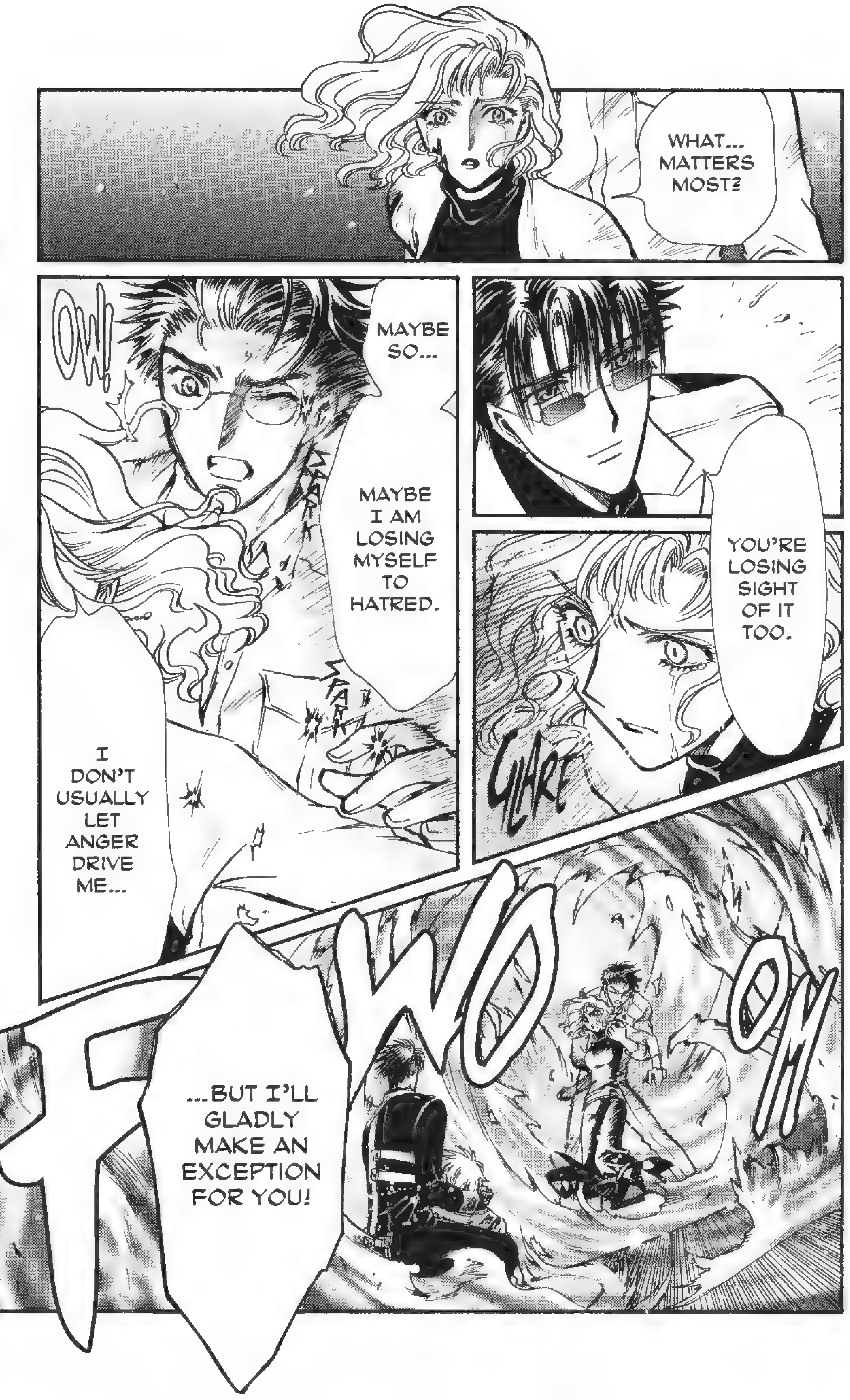

IT WAS WHAT HE WANTED ABOVE ALL ELSE.
WHAT DO YOU WISH FOR... ...MORE THAN ANYTHING?
SOMETHING YOU CAN'T HELP LONGING FOR...
...EVEN KNOWING IT WOULD BREAK SOMEONE ELSE'S HEART.

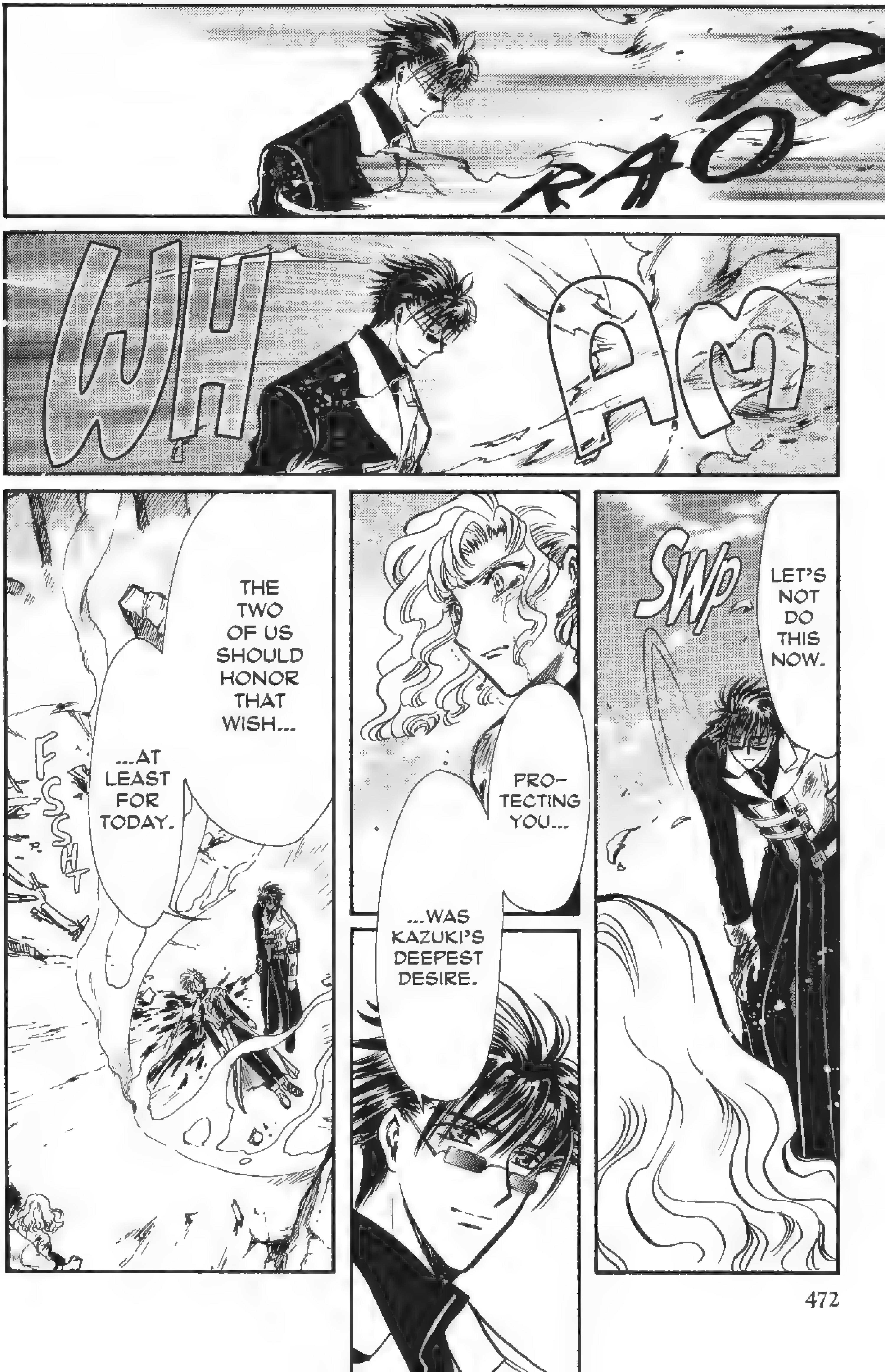

ANYONE IS FREE TO WISH...
...TO DIE FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S SAKE.
BUT ...
...THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHO WISH FOR SOMETHING ELSE.

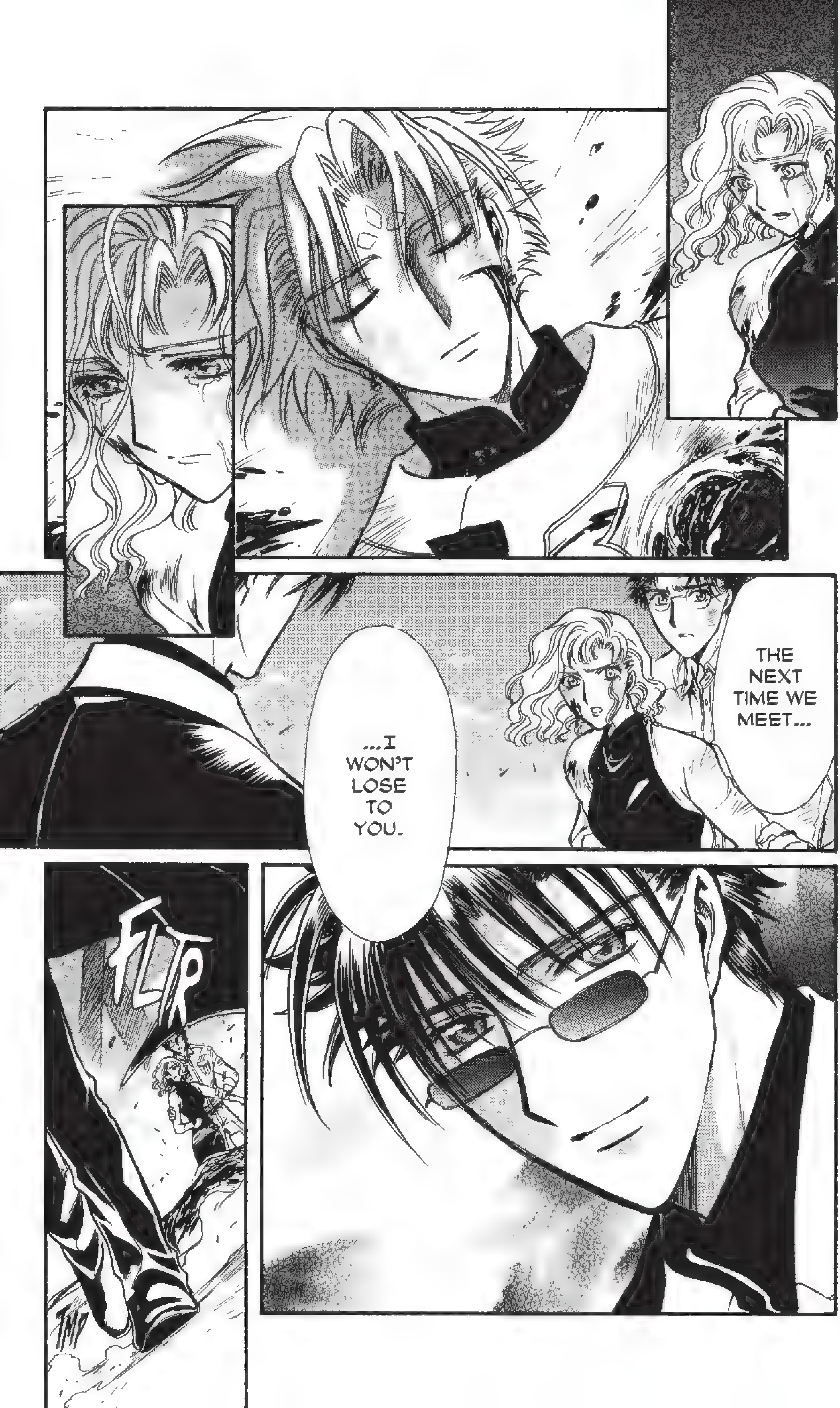

AND YOU?
DO YOU WISH FOR SOMETHING ELSE?

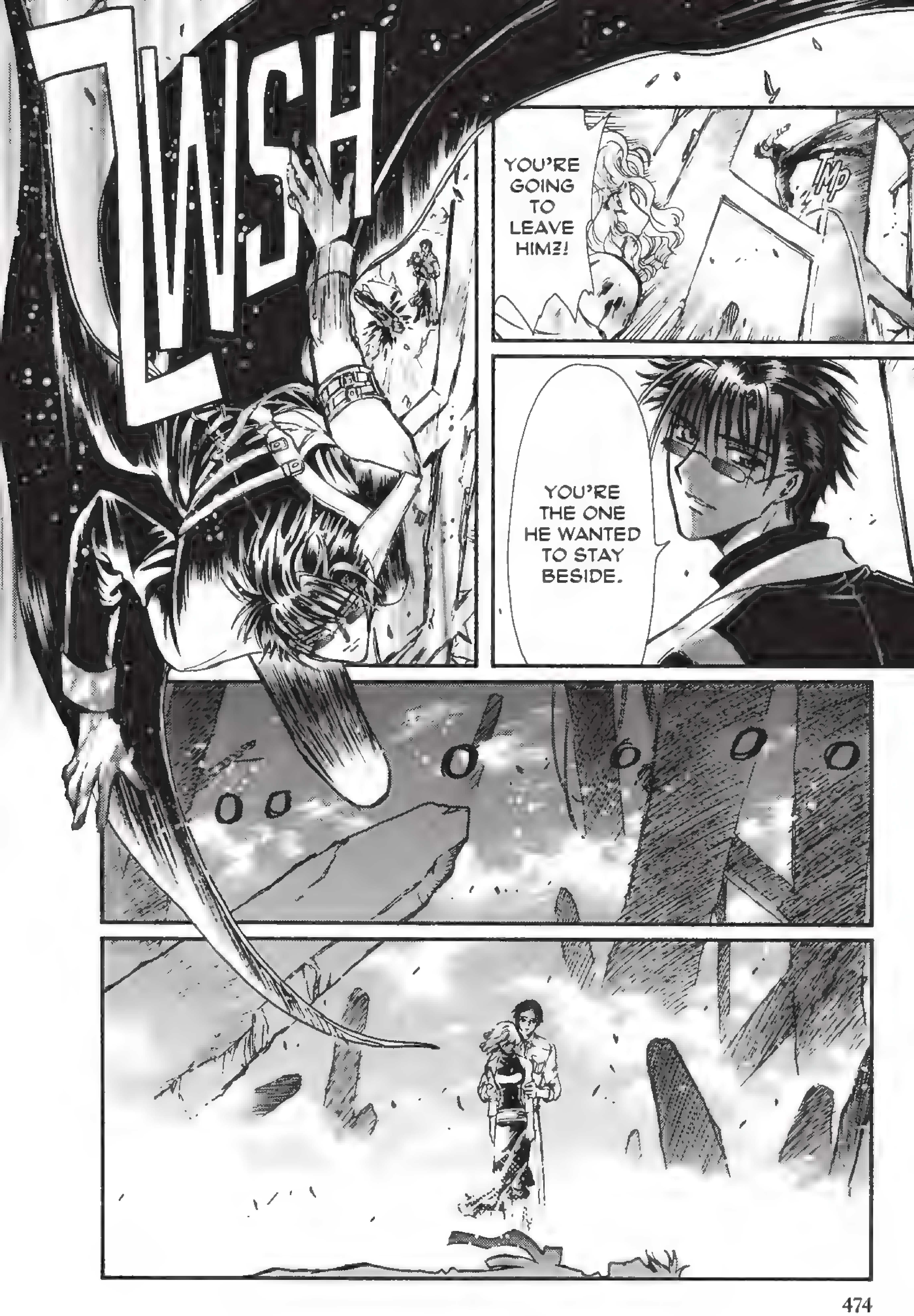

STILL ... ...EVEN IF IT'S WHAT HE WANTED ...
...YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.
NO ONE ...
...HAS THE RIGHT TO TAKE SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE.
IF THAT'S TRUE ...
...THEN WHY DON'T PEOPLE ACT LIKE IT?

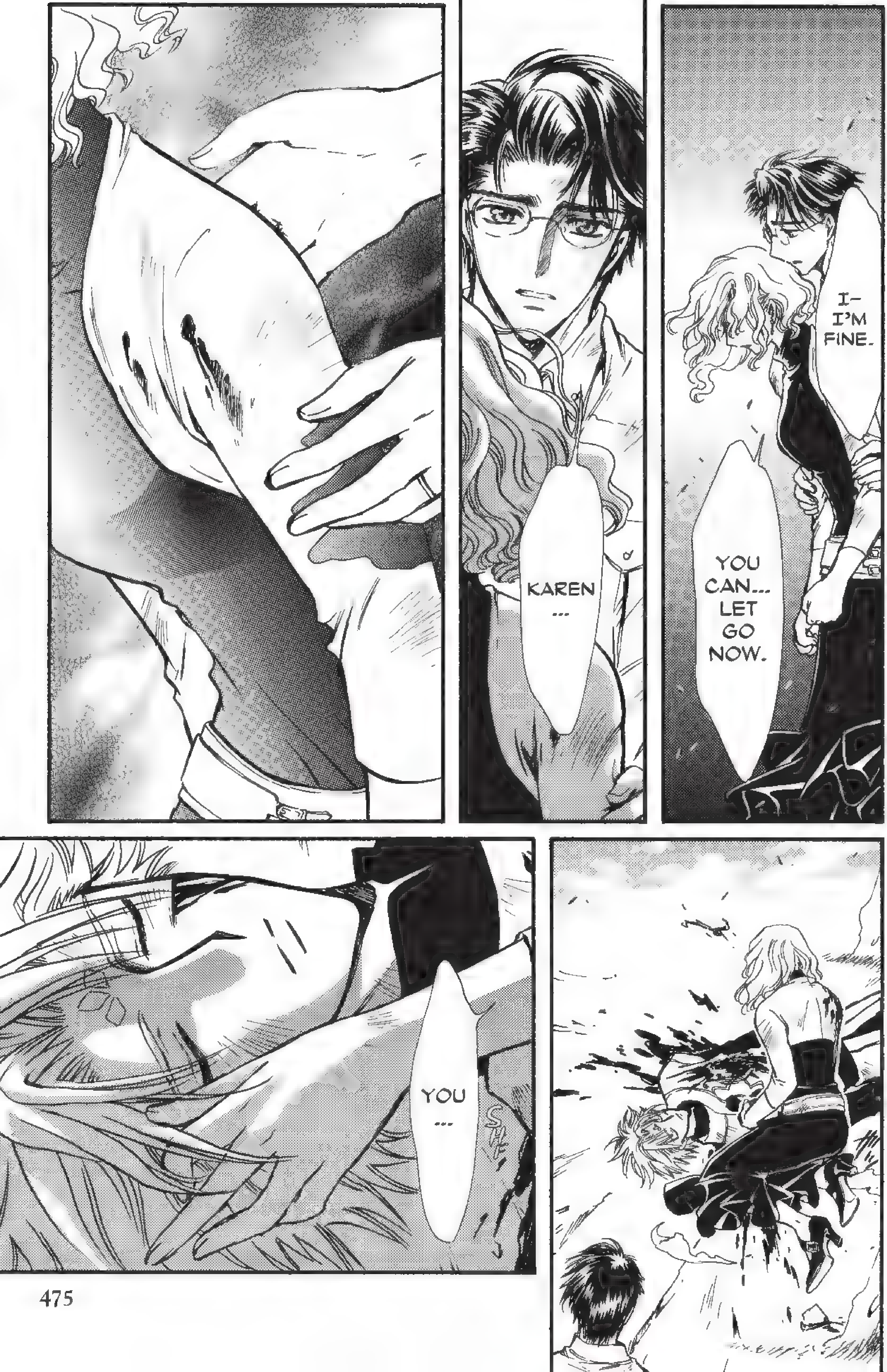

IF NO ONE ...
...HAS THE RIGHT TO KILL SOMEONE ELSE...
...THEN WHY DO PEOPLE LOSE SIGHT OF...
...WHAT MATTERS MOST?

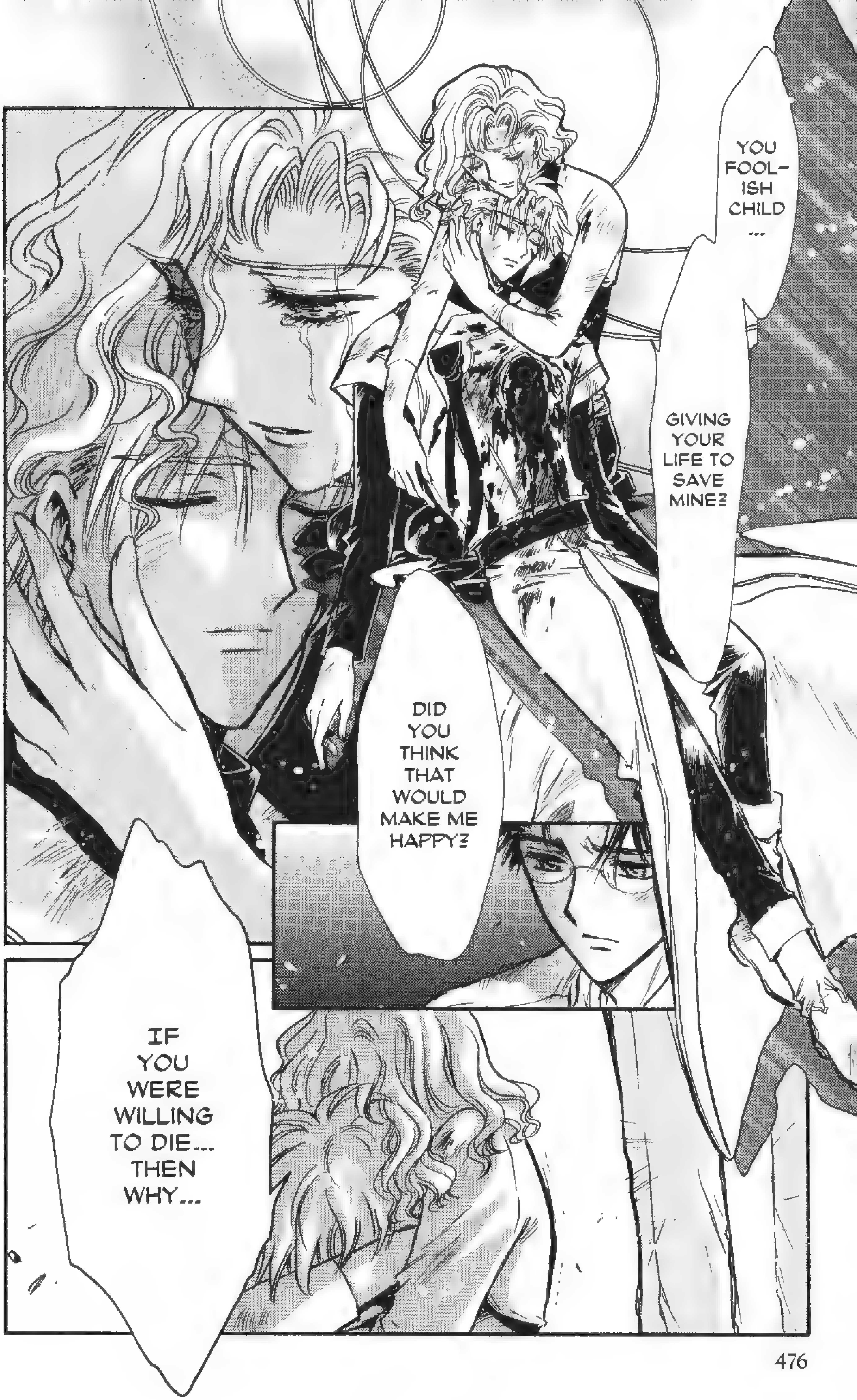

WHAT... MATTERS MOST?
YOU'RE LOSING SIGHT OF IT TOO.
GLARE
MAYBE SO...
MAYBE I AM LOSING MYSELF TO HATRED.
OW!
SPARK
SPARK
I DON'T USUALLY LET ANGER DRIVE ME...
...BUT I'LL GLADLY MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR YOU!
FWOOM

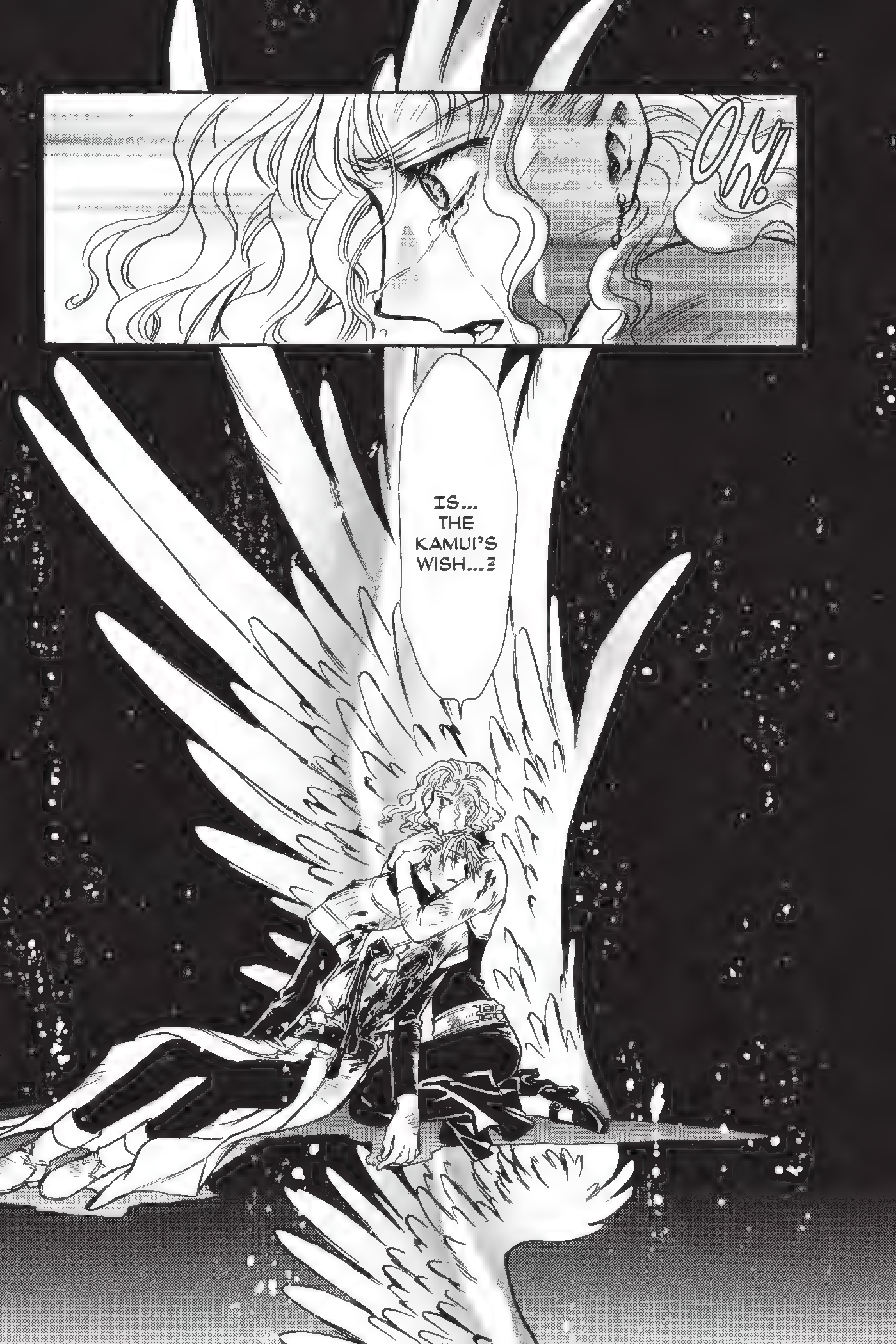

RAOR
WHAM
SWP
LET'S NOT DO THIS NOW.
PROTECTING YOU...
...WAS KAZUKI'S DEEPEST DESIRE.
THE TWO OF US SHOULD HONOR THAT WISH...
...AT LEAST FOR TODAY.
FSSHT

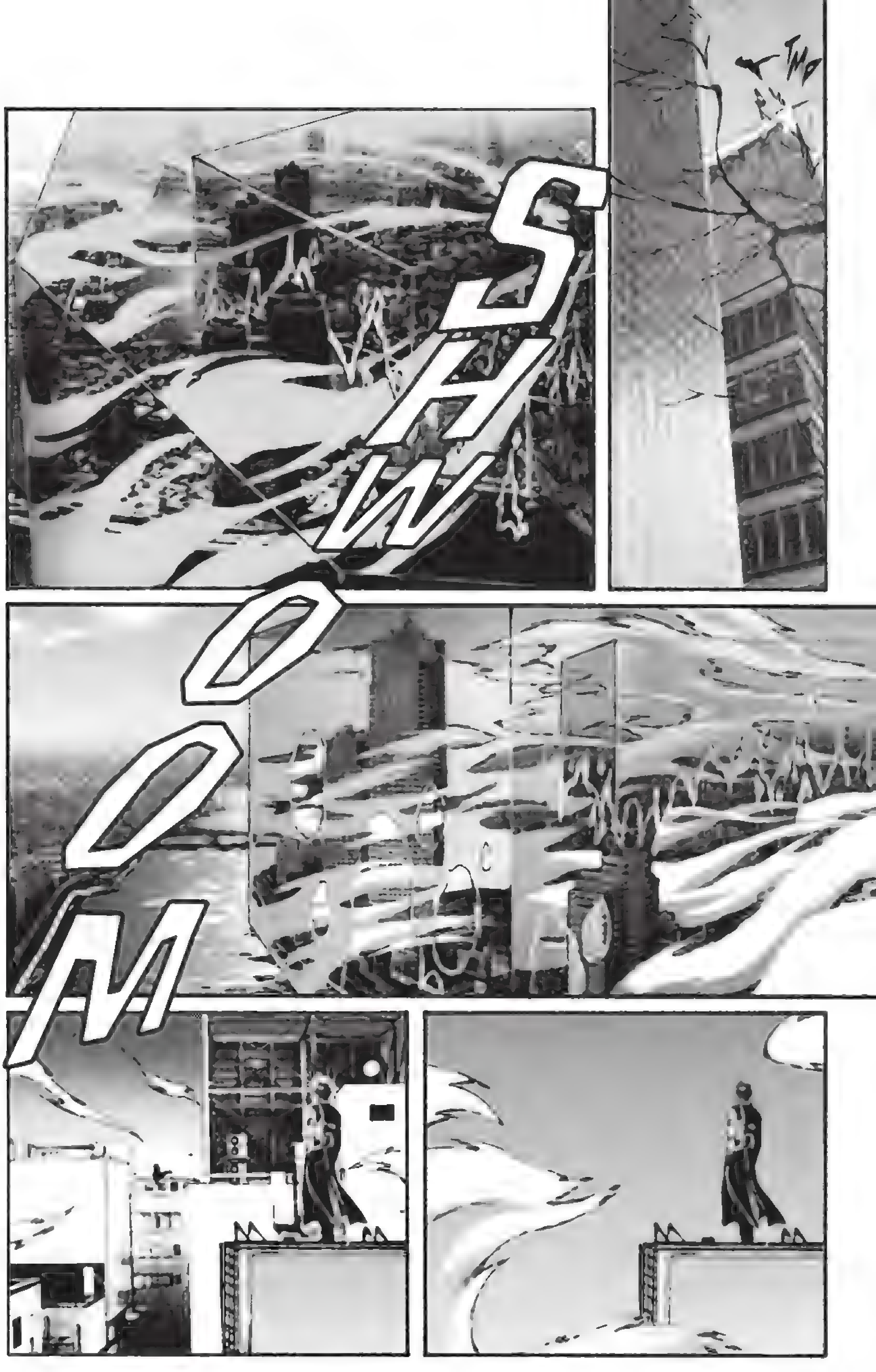

THE NEXT TIME WE MEET...
...I WON'T LOSE TO YOU.
FLIP
TMP

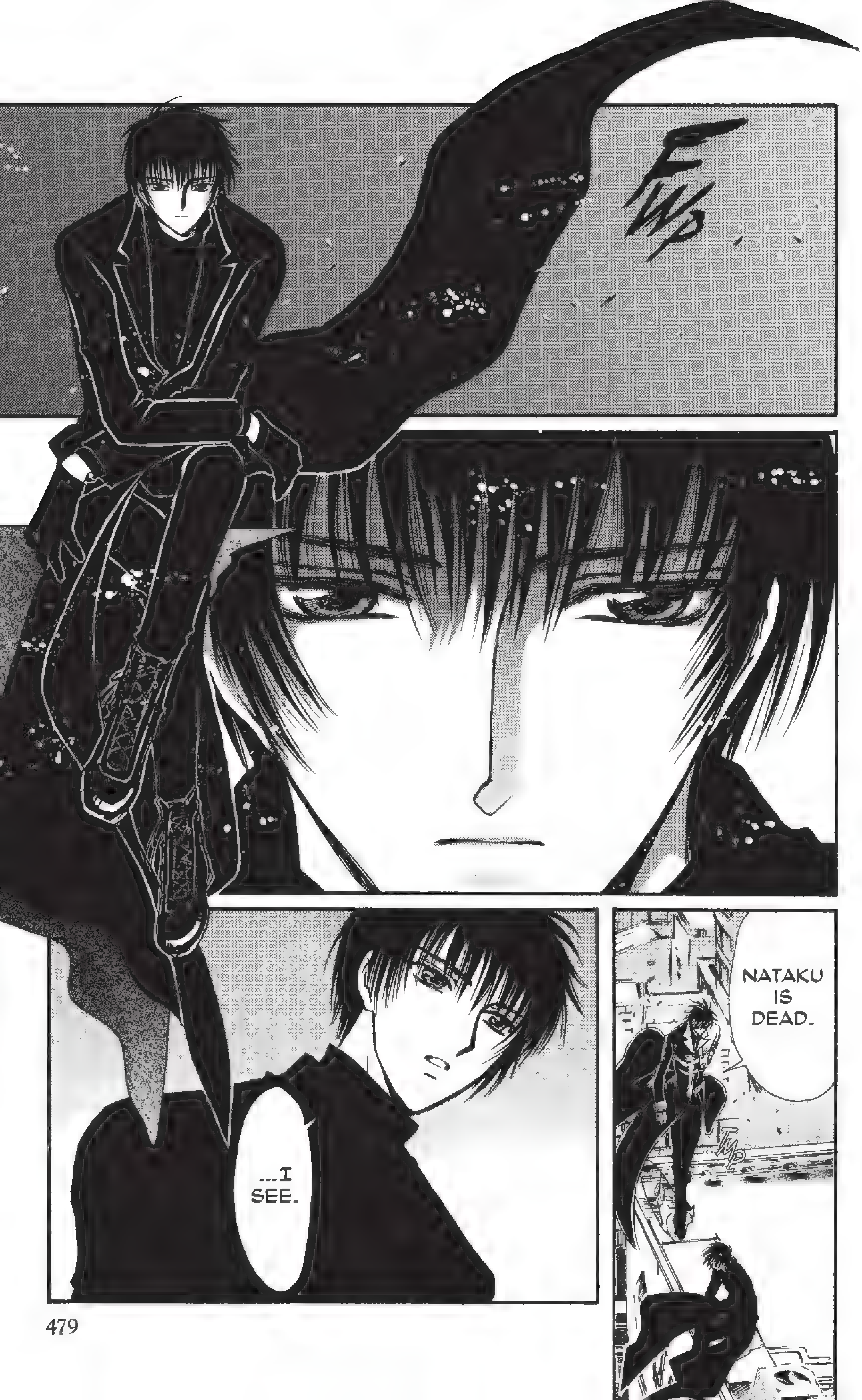

TMP
YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE HIM?!
ZWSH
YOU'RE THE ONE HE WANTED TO STAY BESIDE.

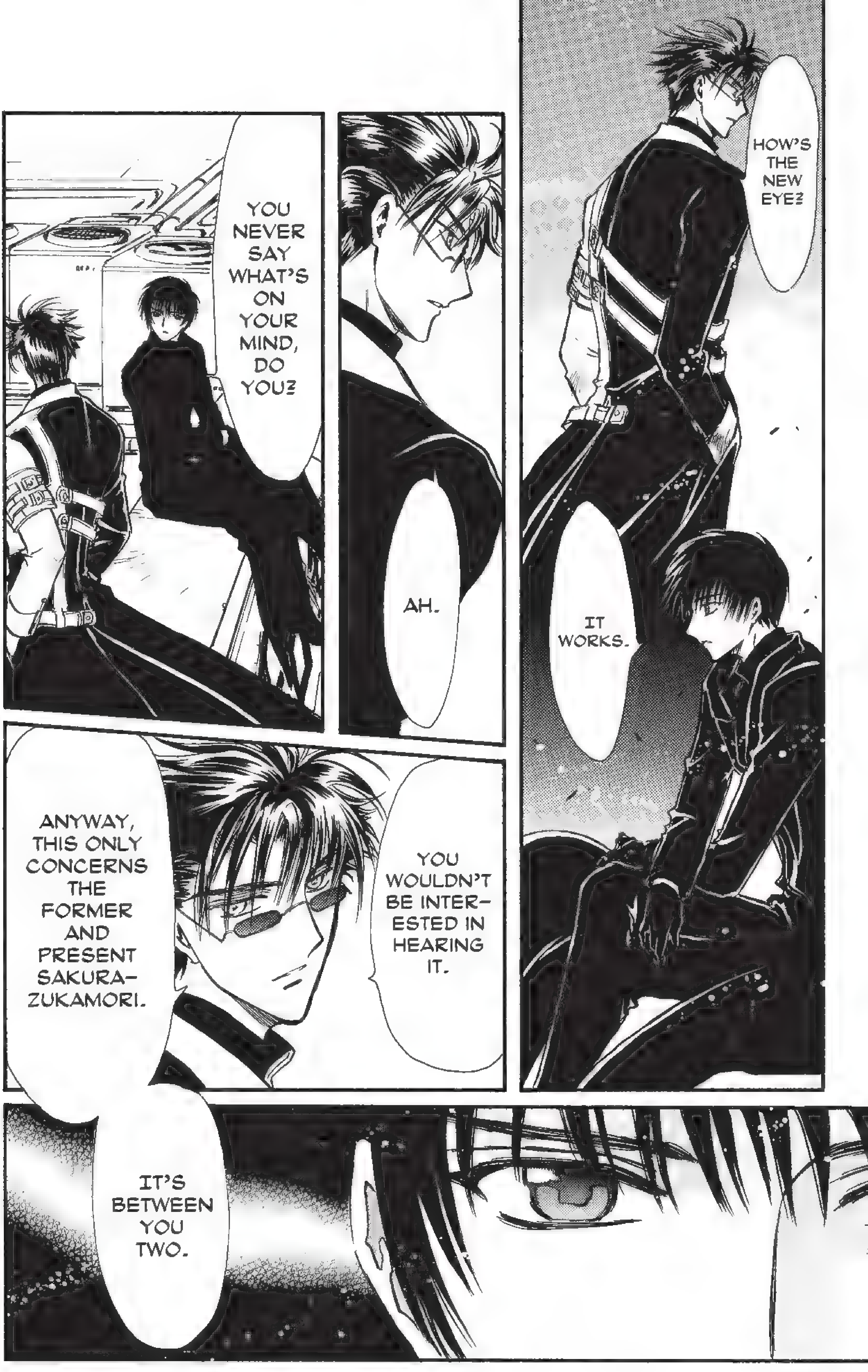

I— I'M FINE.
YOU CAN... LET GO NOW.
KAREN ...
YOU ...
SHF

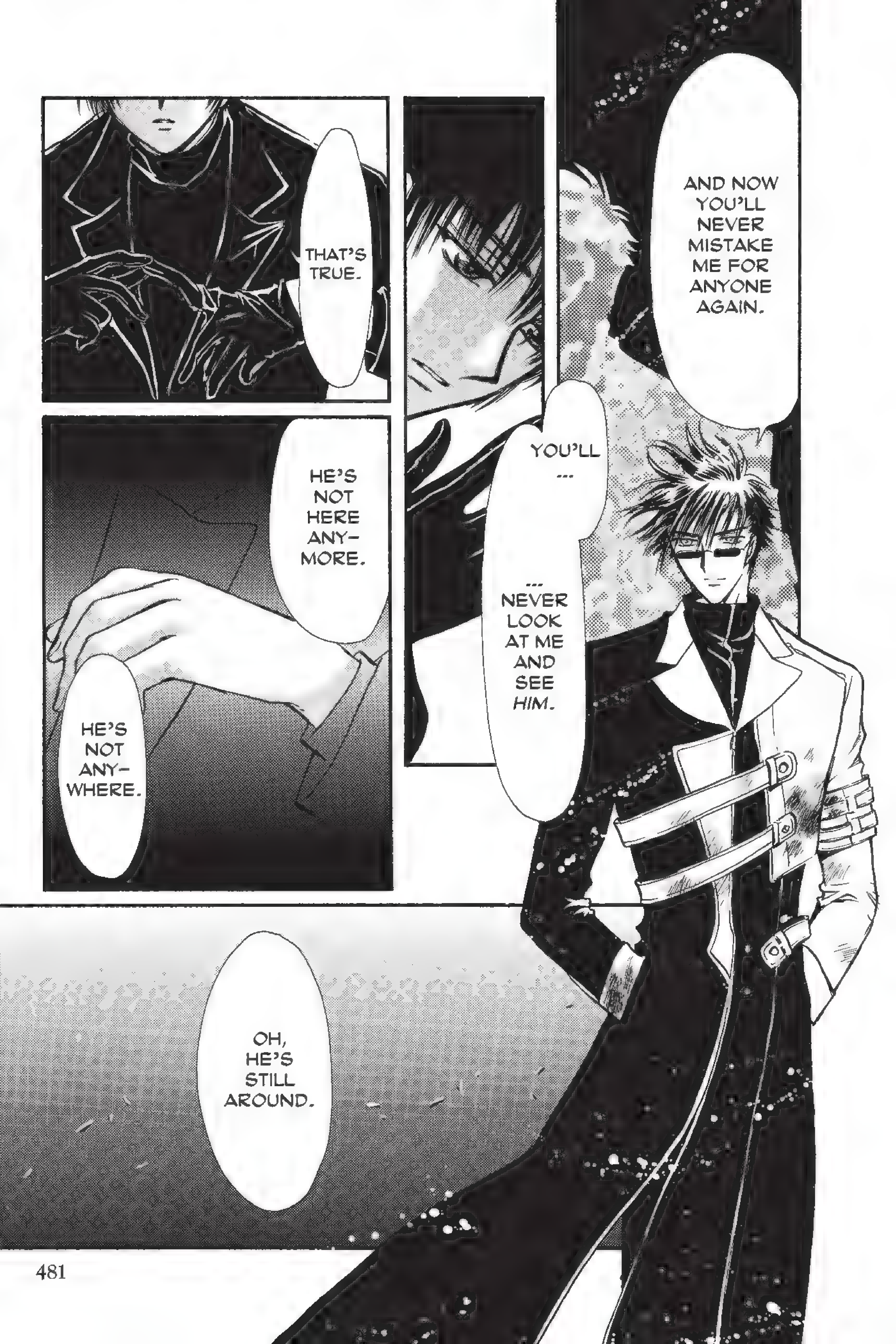

YOU FOOLISH CHILD...
GIVING YOUR LIFE TO SAVE MINE?
DID YOU THINK THAT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY?
IF YOU WERE WILLING TO DIE... THEN WHY...

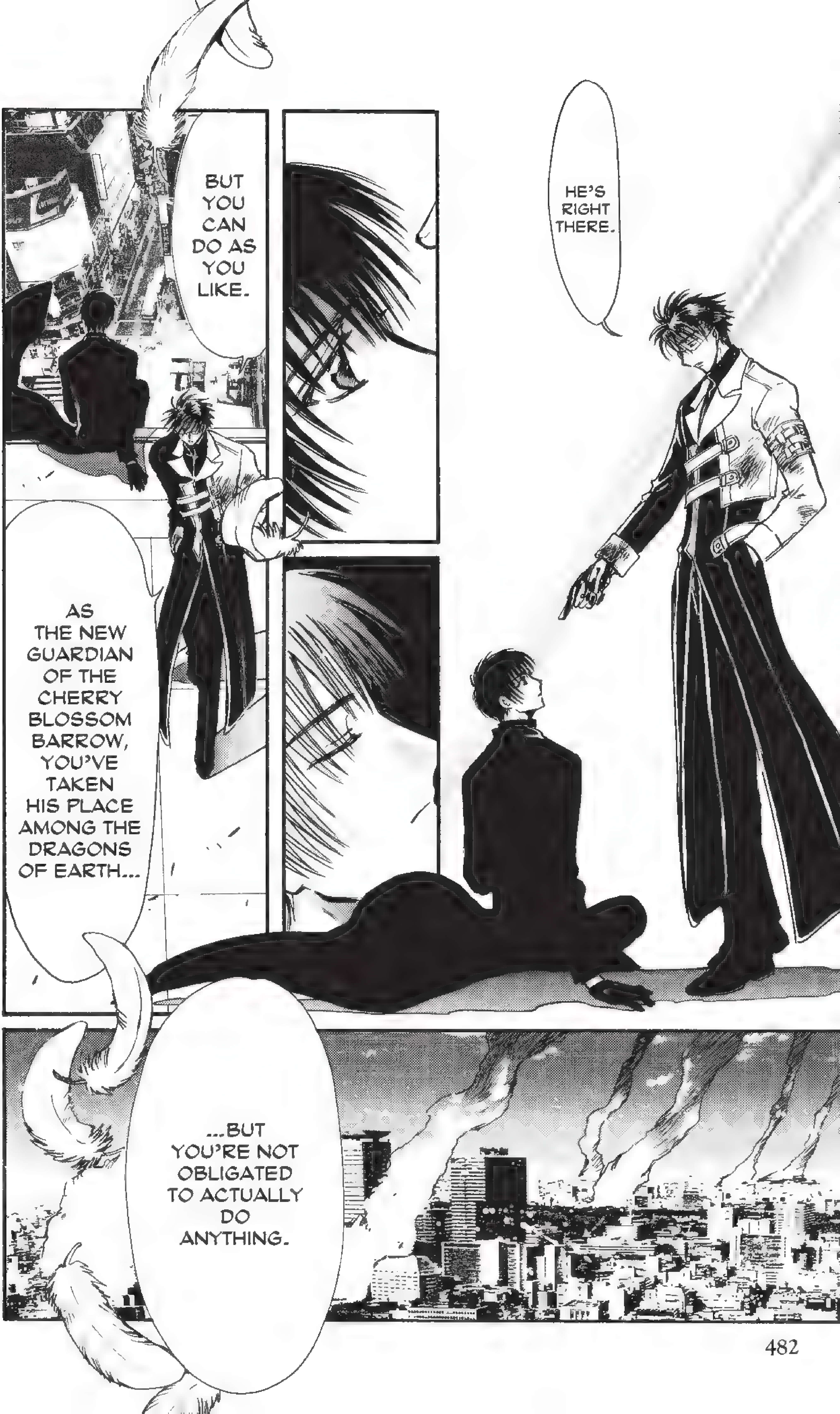

OH!
IS... THE KAMUI'S WISH...?

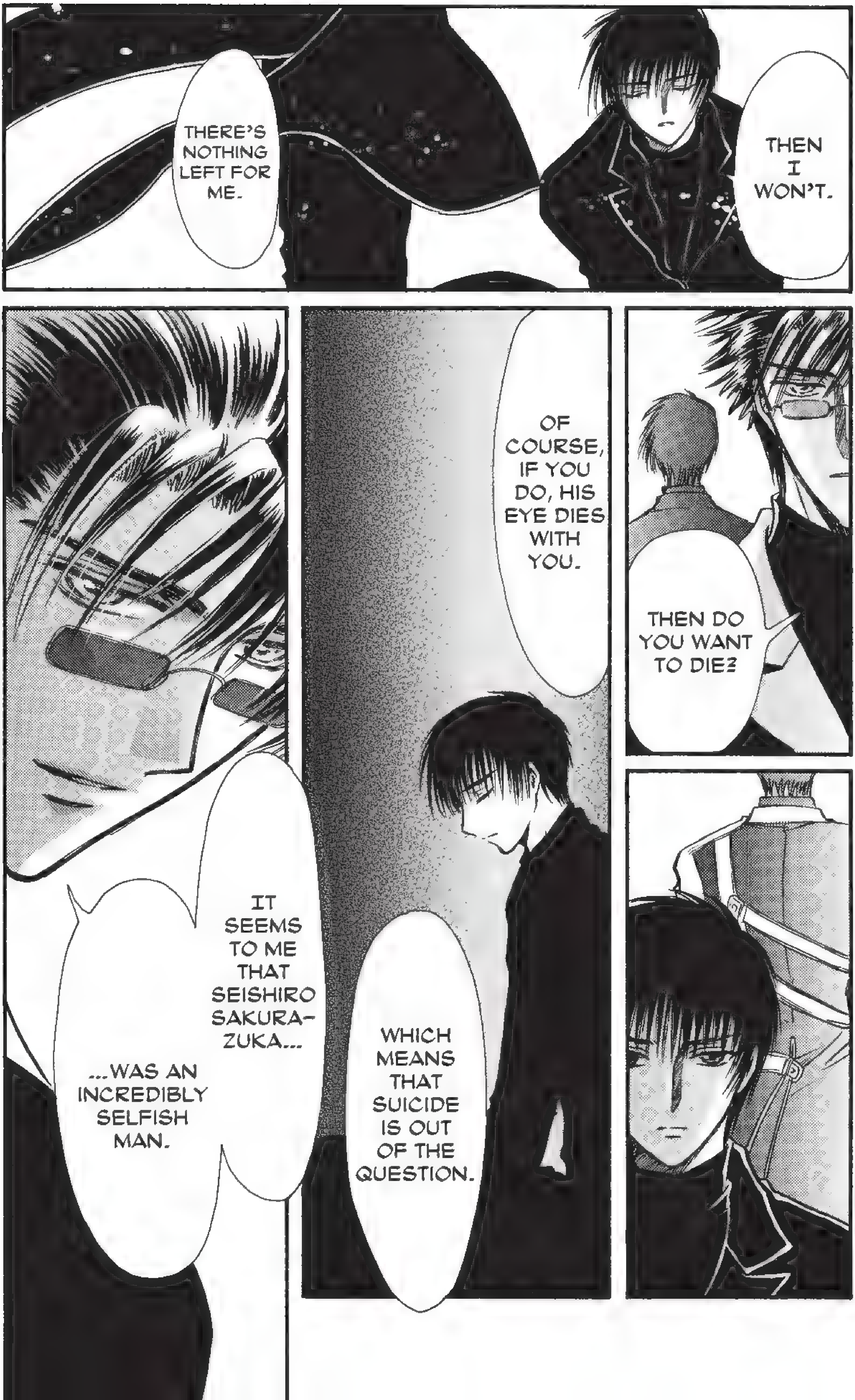

TMP
SHWOOOM

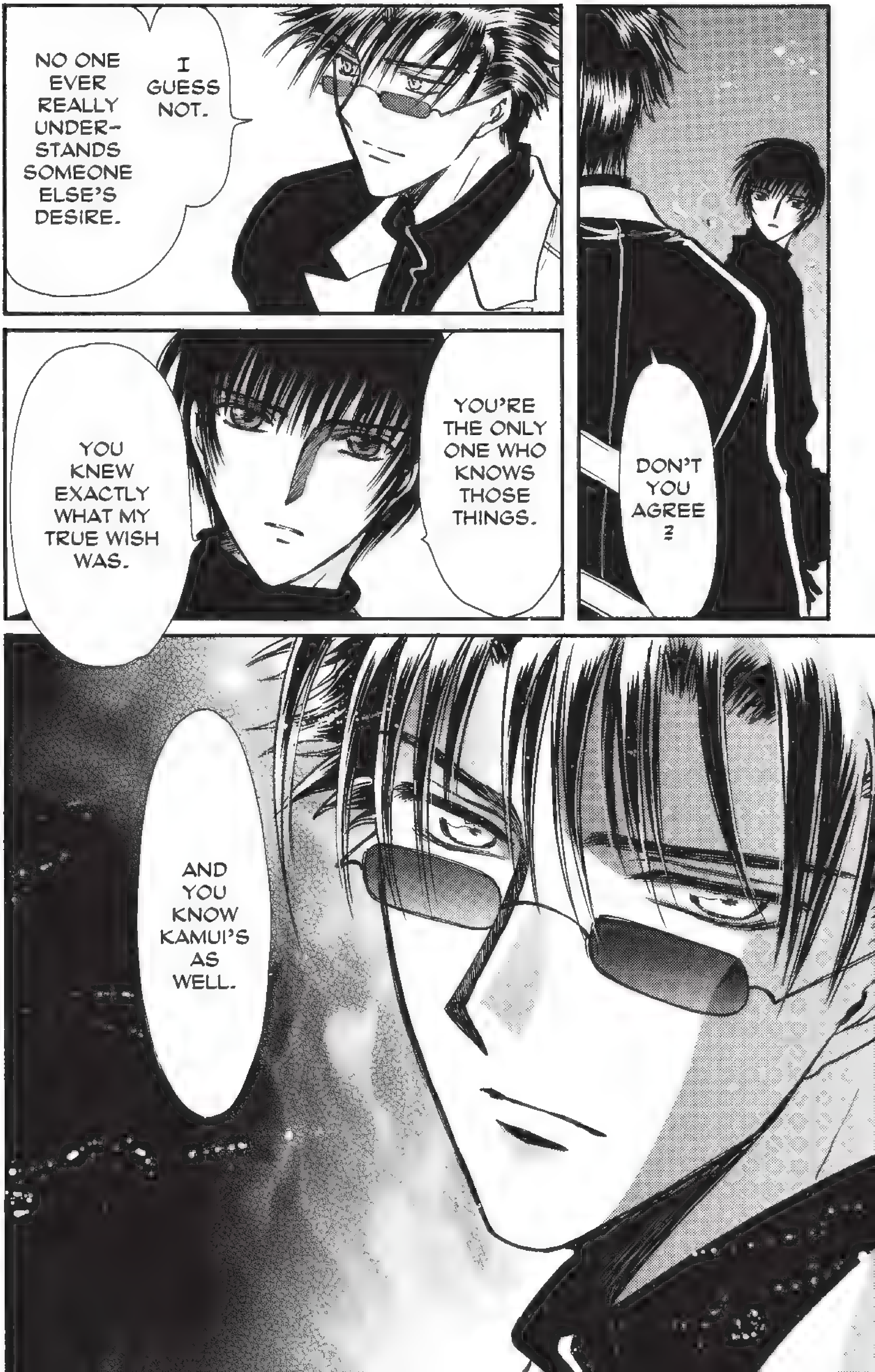

FWP
NATAKU IS DEAD.
TMP
...I SEE.

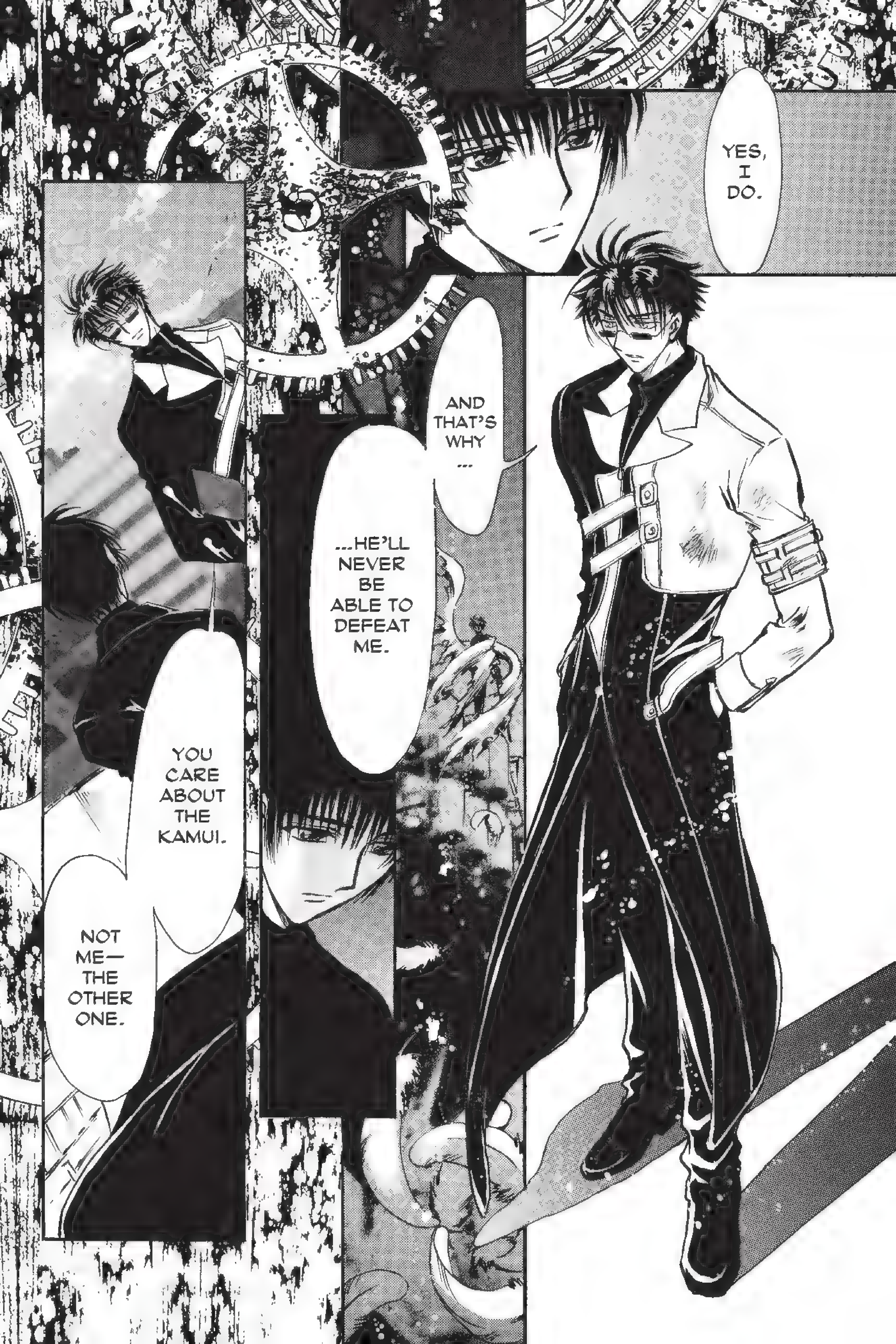

HOW'S THE NEW EYE?
IT WORKS.
AH.
YOU NEVER SAY WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, DO YOU?
YOU WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED IN HEARING IT.
ANYWAY, THIS ONLY CONCERNS THE FORMER AND PRESENT SAKURAZUKAMORI.
IT'S BETWEEN YOU TWO.

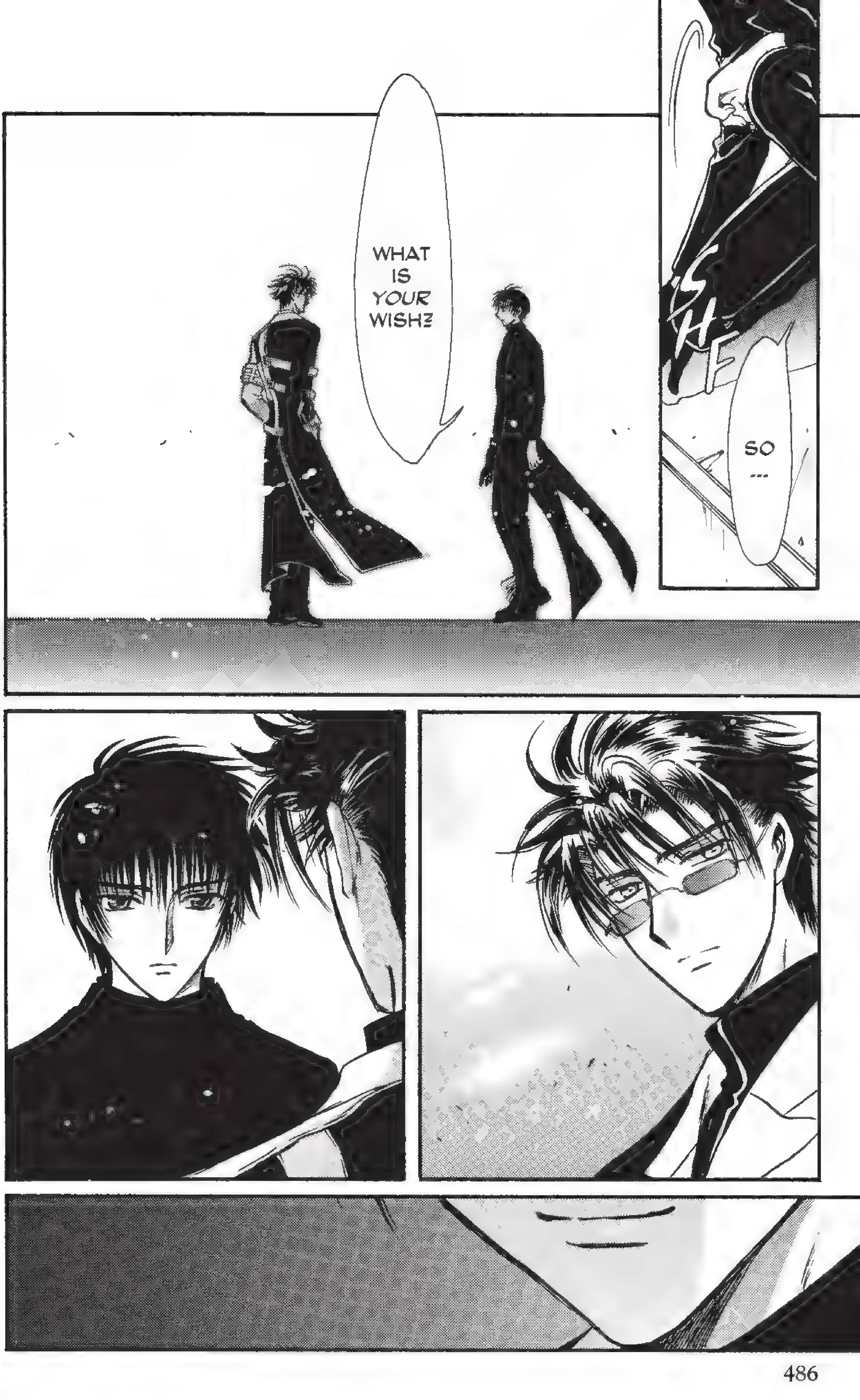

AND NOW YOU'LL NEVER MISTAKE ME FOR ANYONE AGAIN.
THAT'S TRUE.
YOU'LL ...
... NEVER LOOK AT ME AND SEE *HIM*.
HE'S NOT HERE ANYMORE.
HE'S NOT ANYWHERE.
OH, HE'S STILL AROUND.

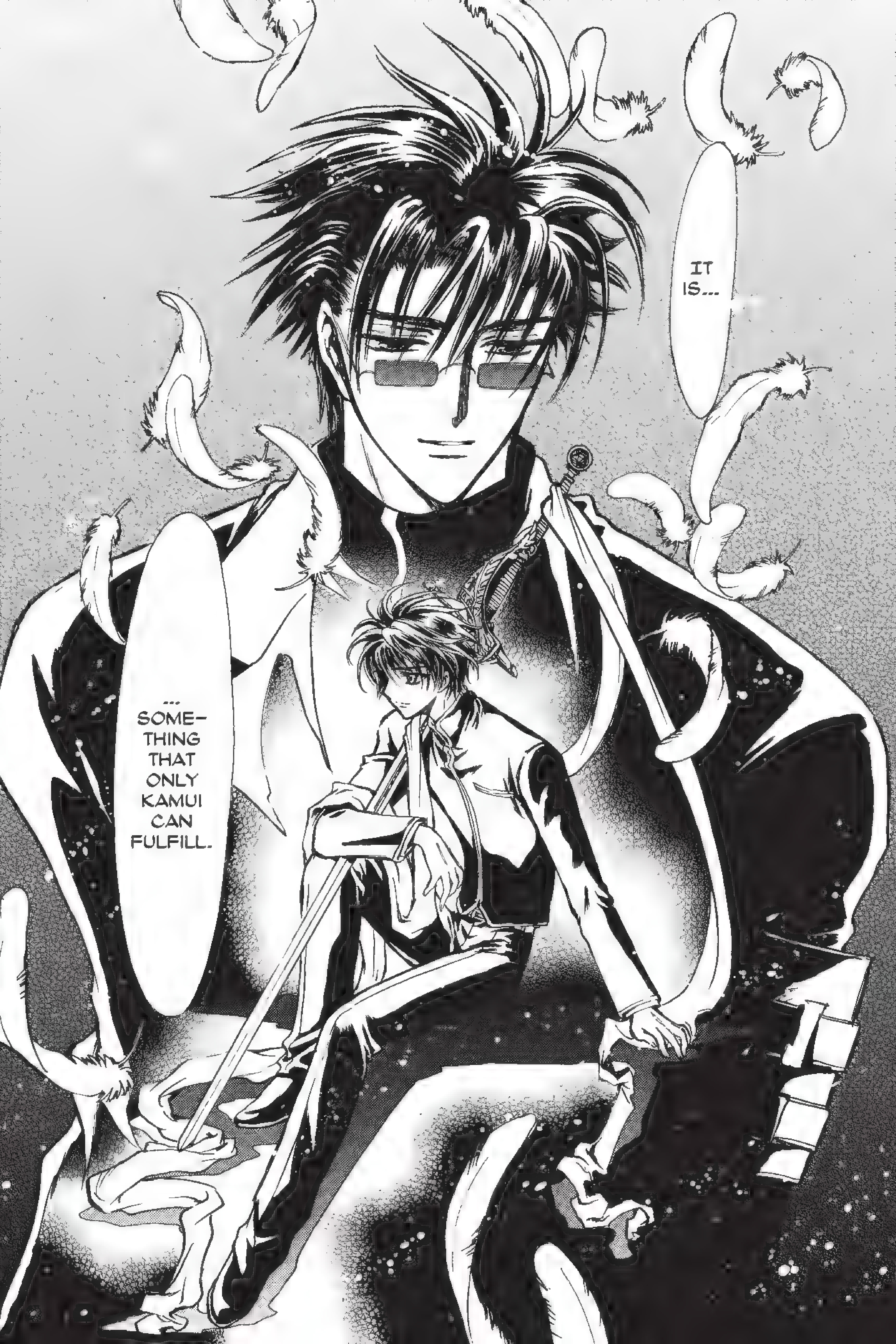

HE'S RIGHT THERE.
BUT YOU CAN DO AS YOU LIKE.
AS THE NEW GUARDIAN OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOM BARROW, YOU'VE TAKEN HIS PLACE AMONG THE DRAGONS OF EARTH...
...BUT YOU'RE NOT OBLIGATED TO ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING.

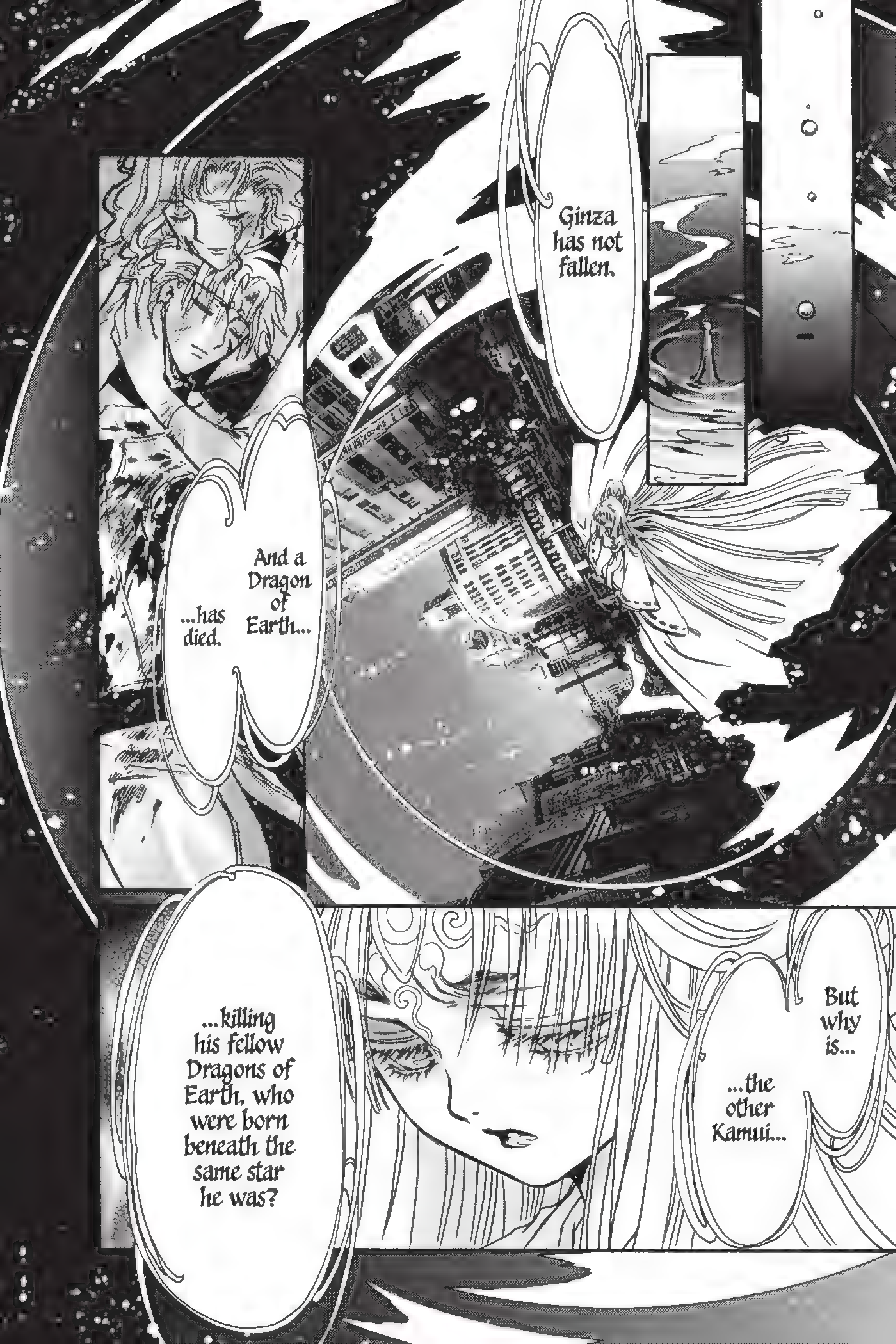

THEN I WON'T.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME.
THEN DO YOU WANT TO DIE?
OF COURSE, IF YOU DO, HIS EYE DIES WITH YOU.
WHICH MEANS THAT SUICIDE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT SEISHIRO SAKURAZUKA...
...WAS AN INCREDIBLY SELFISH MAN.

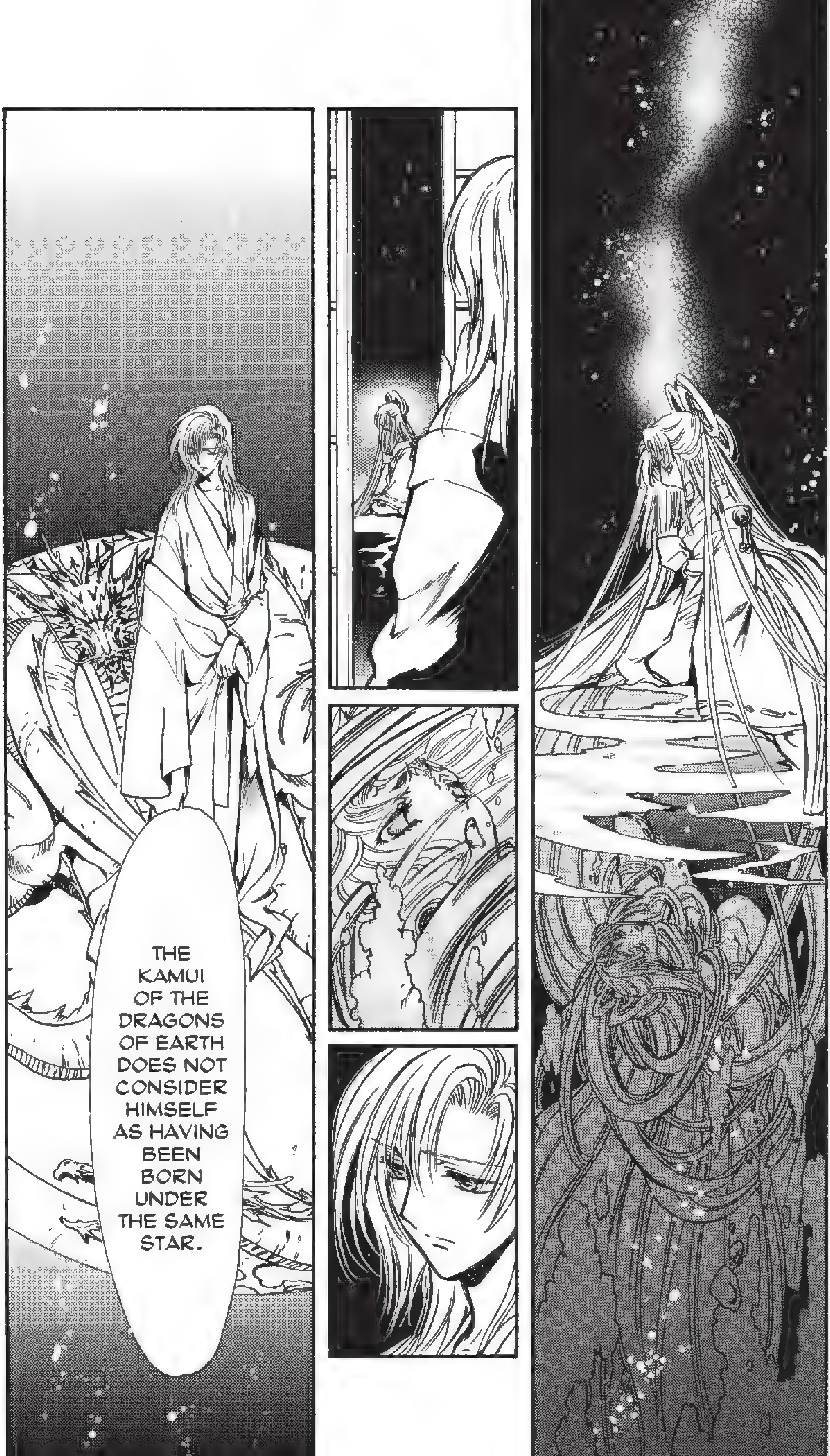

DON'T YOU AGREE?
I GUESS NOT.
NO ONE EVER REALLY UNDERSTANDS SOMEONE ELSE'S DESIRE.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THOSE THINGS.
YOU KNEW EXACTLY WHAT MY TRUE WISH WAS.
AND YOU KNOW KAMUI'S AS WELL.

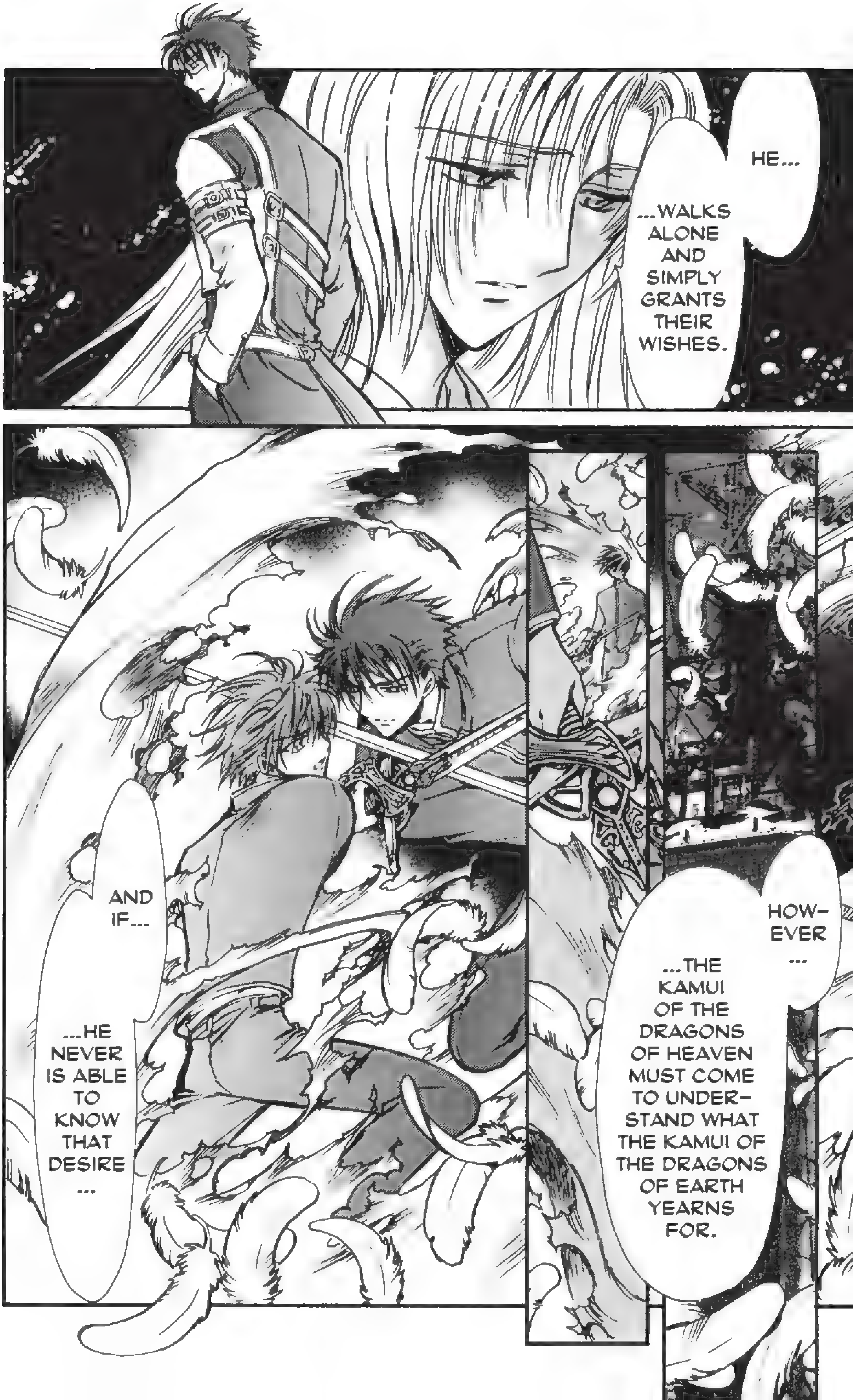

YES, I DO.
AND THAT'S WHY ...
...HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DEFEAT ME.
YOU CARE ABOUT THE KAMUI.
NOT ME—THE OTHER ONE.

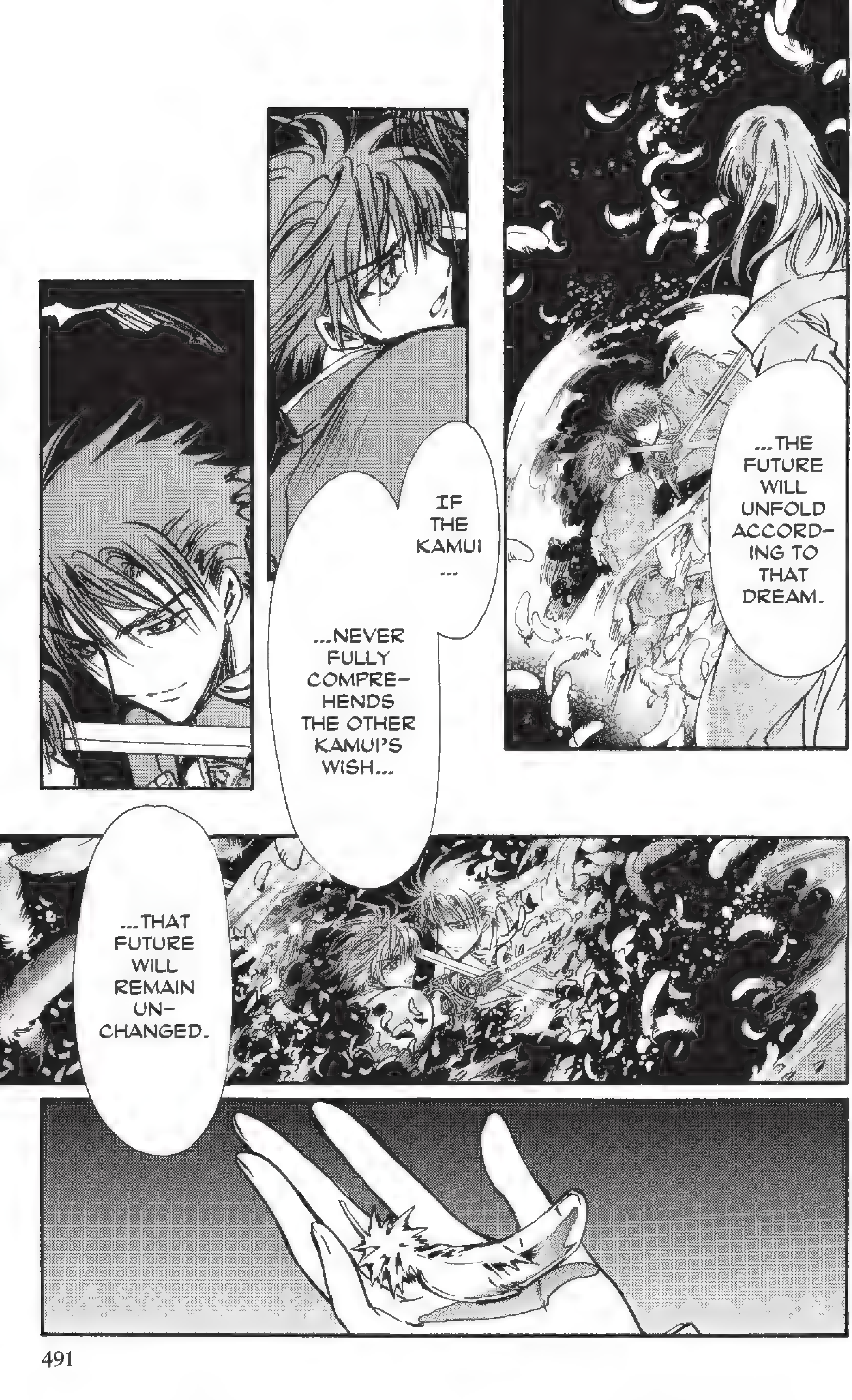

SHF
SO ...
WHAT IS YOUR WISH?

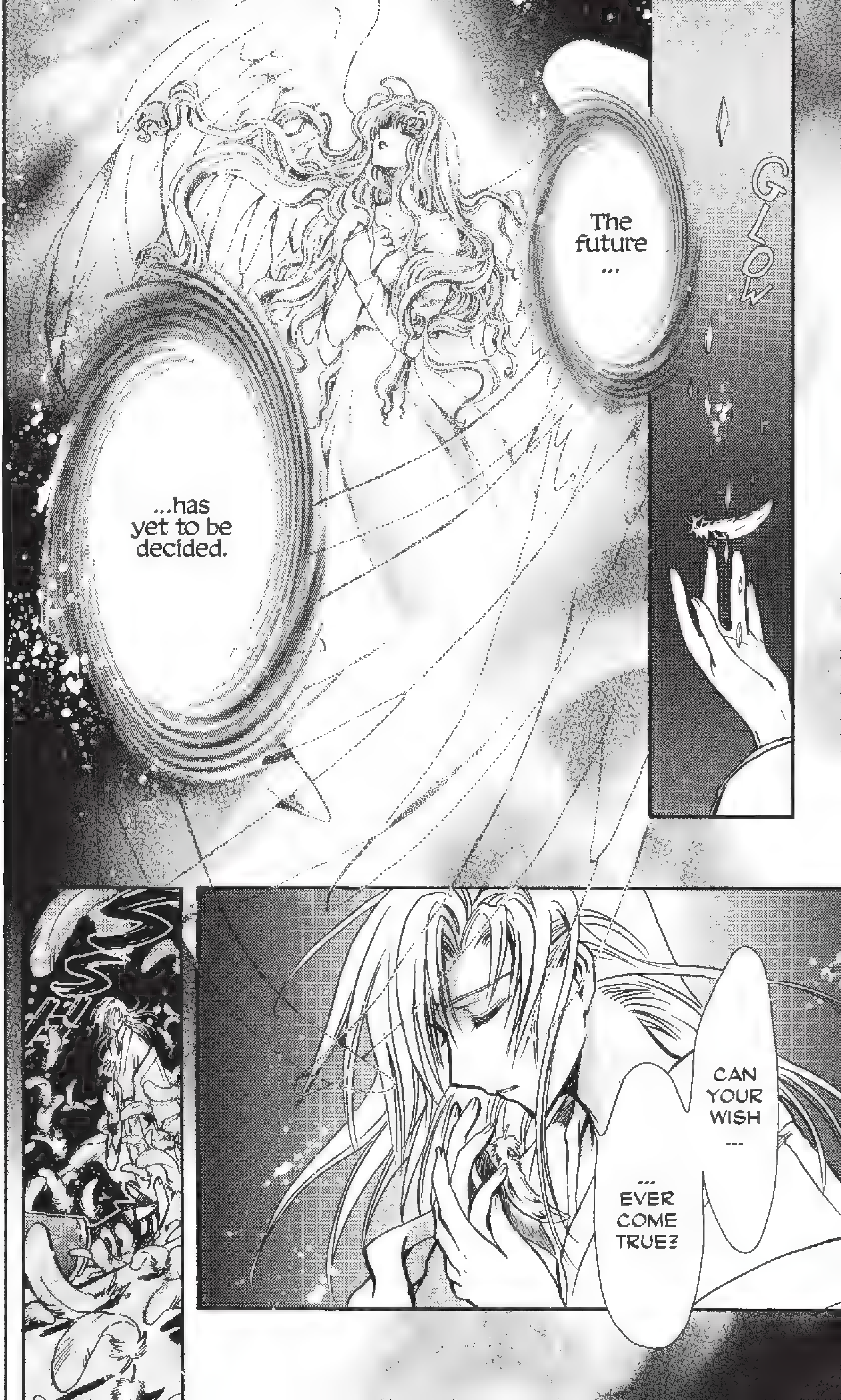

IT IS...
...SOMETHING THAT ONLY KAMUI CAN FULFILL.

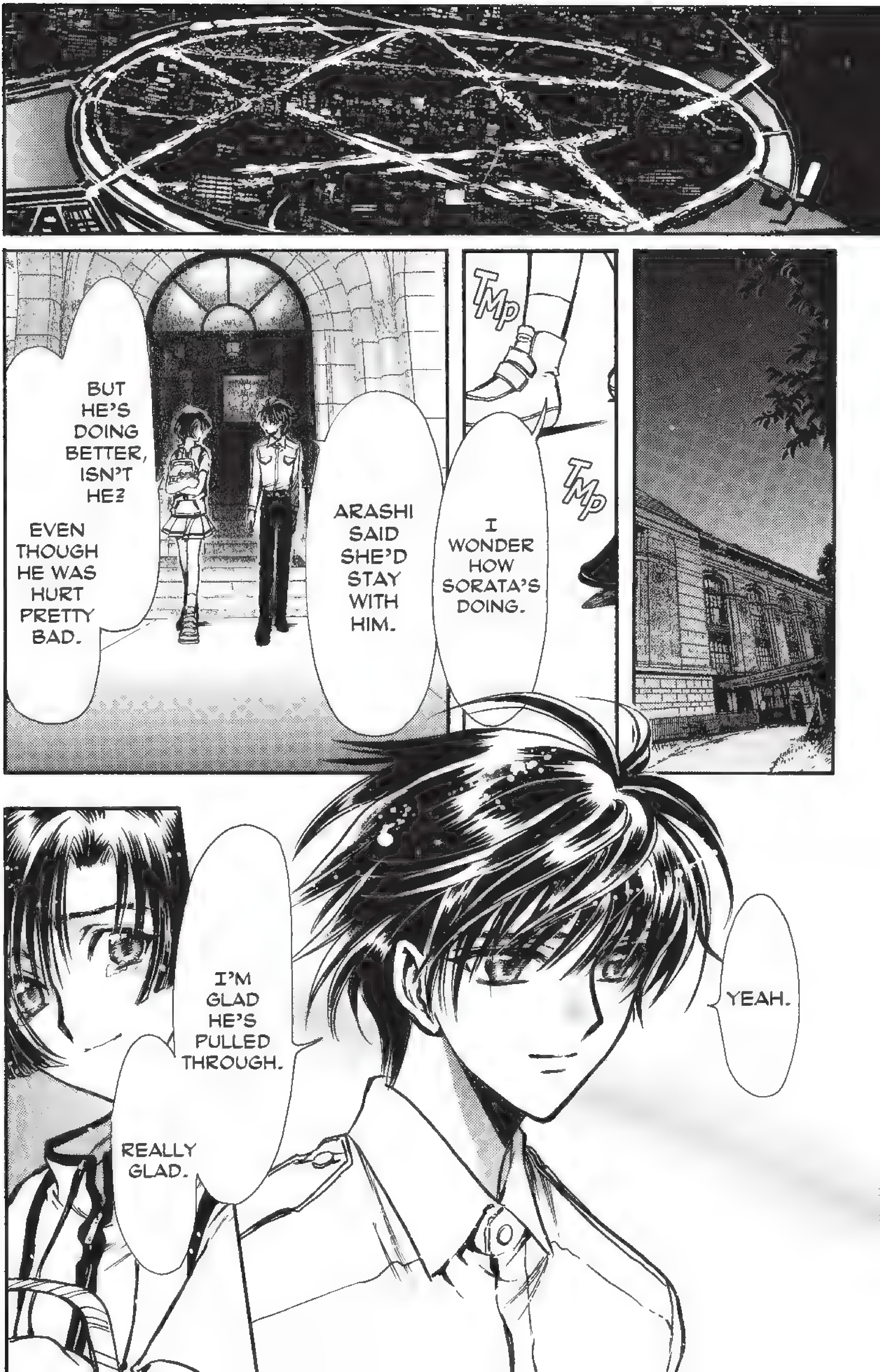

Ginza has not fallen.
And a Dragon of Earth...
...has died.
But why is...
...the other Kamui...
...killing his fellow Dragons of Earth, who were born beneath the same star he was?

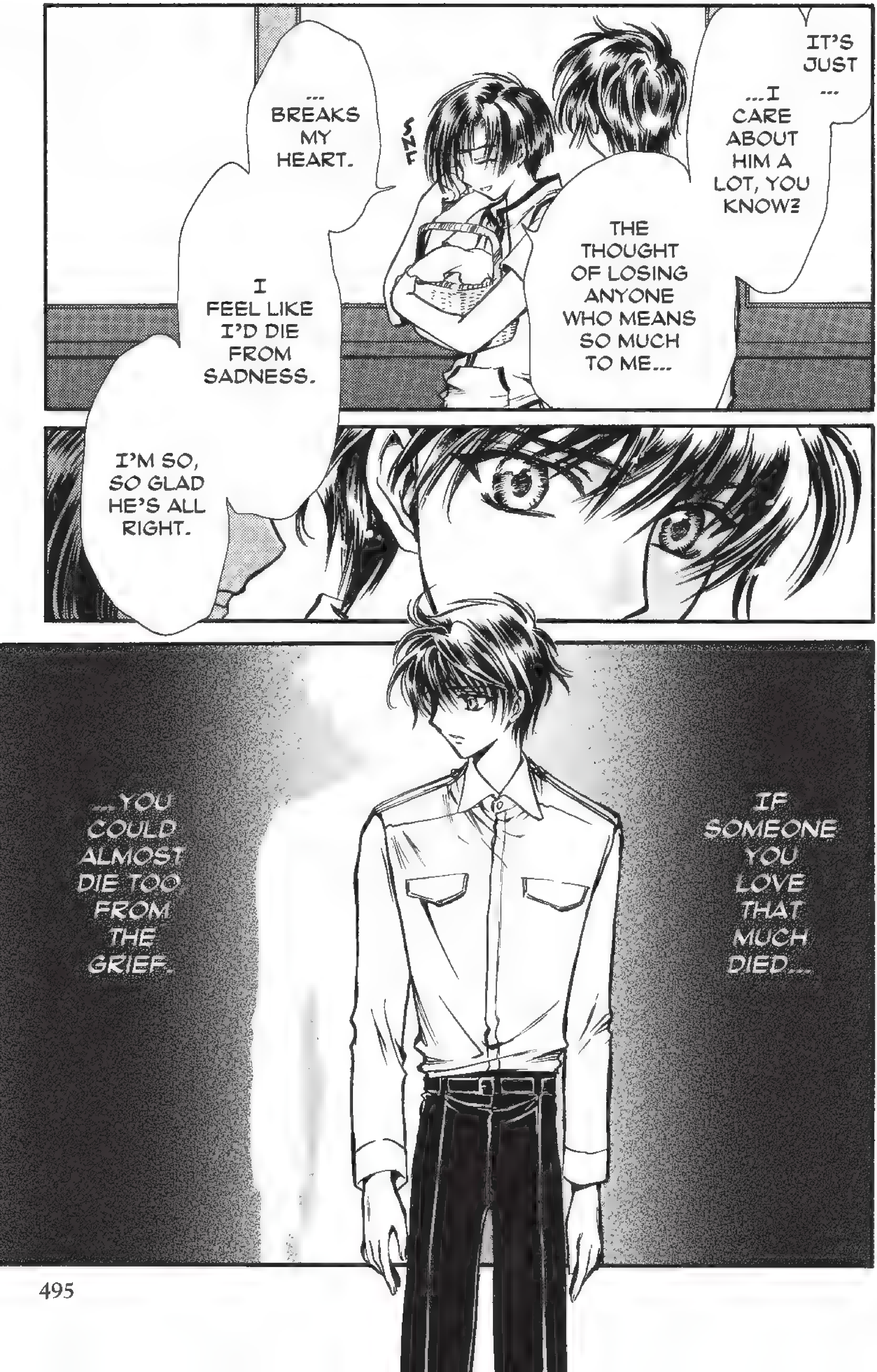

THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH DOES NOT CONSIDER HIMSELF AS HAVING BEEN BORN UNDER THE SAME STAR.

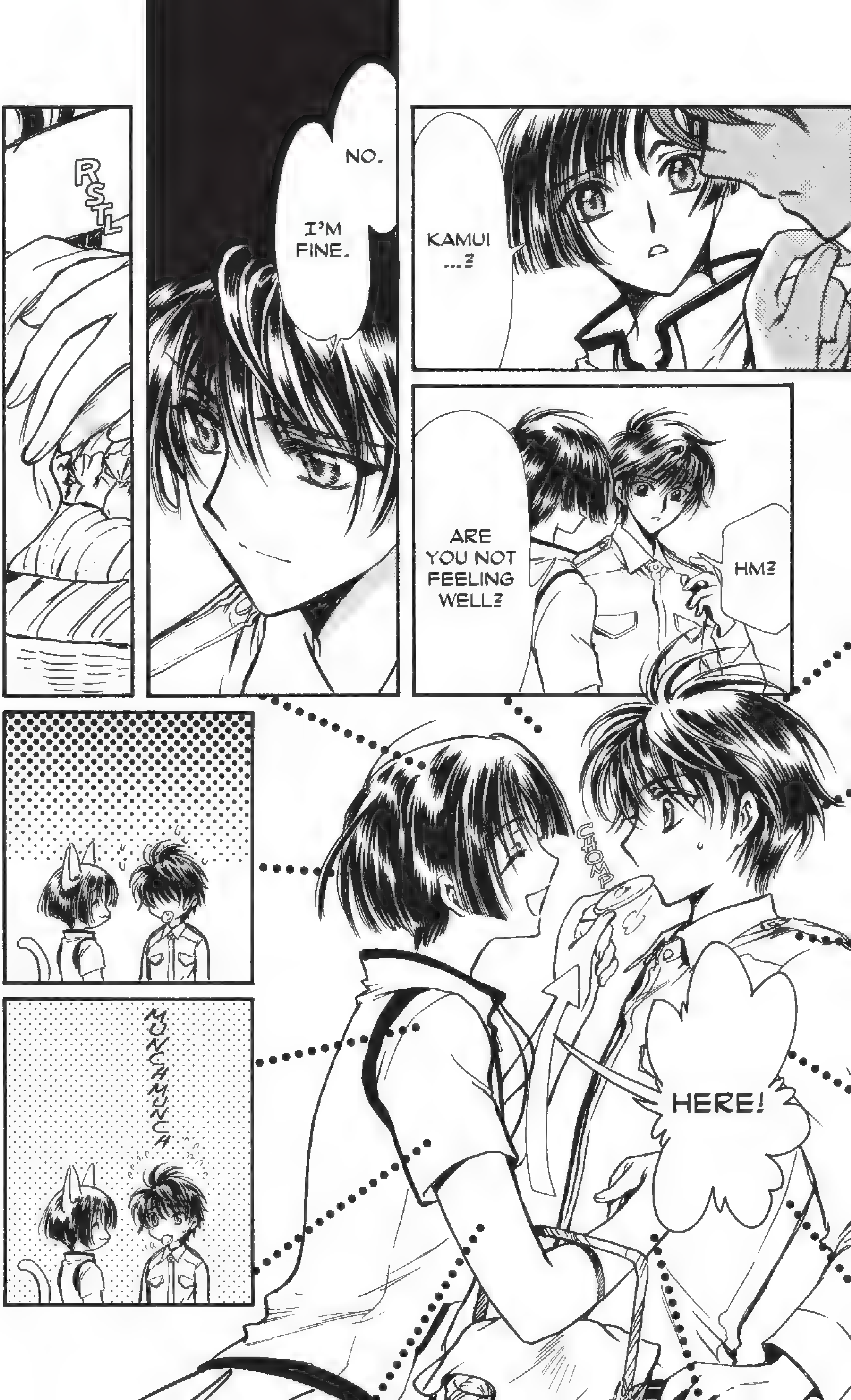

HE...
...WALKS ALONE AND SIMPLY GRANTS THEIR WISHES.
HOWEVER...
...THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN MUST COME TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH YEARNS FOR.
AND IF...
...HE NEVER IS ABLE TO KNOW THAT DESIRE...

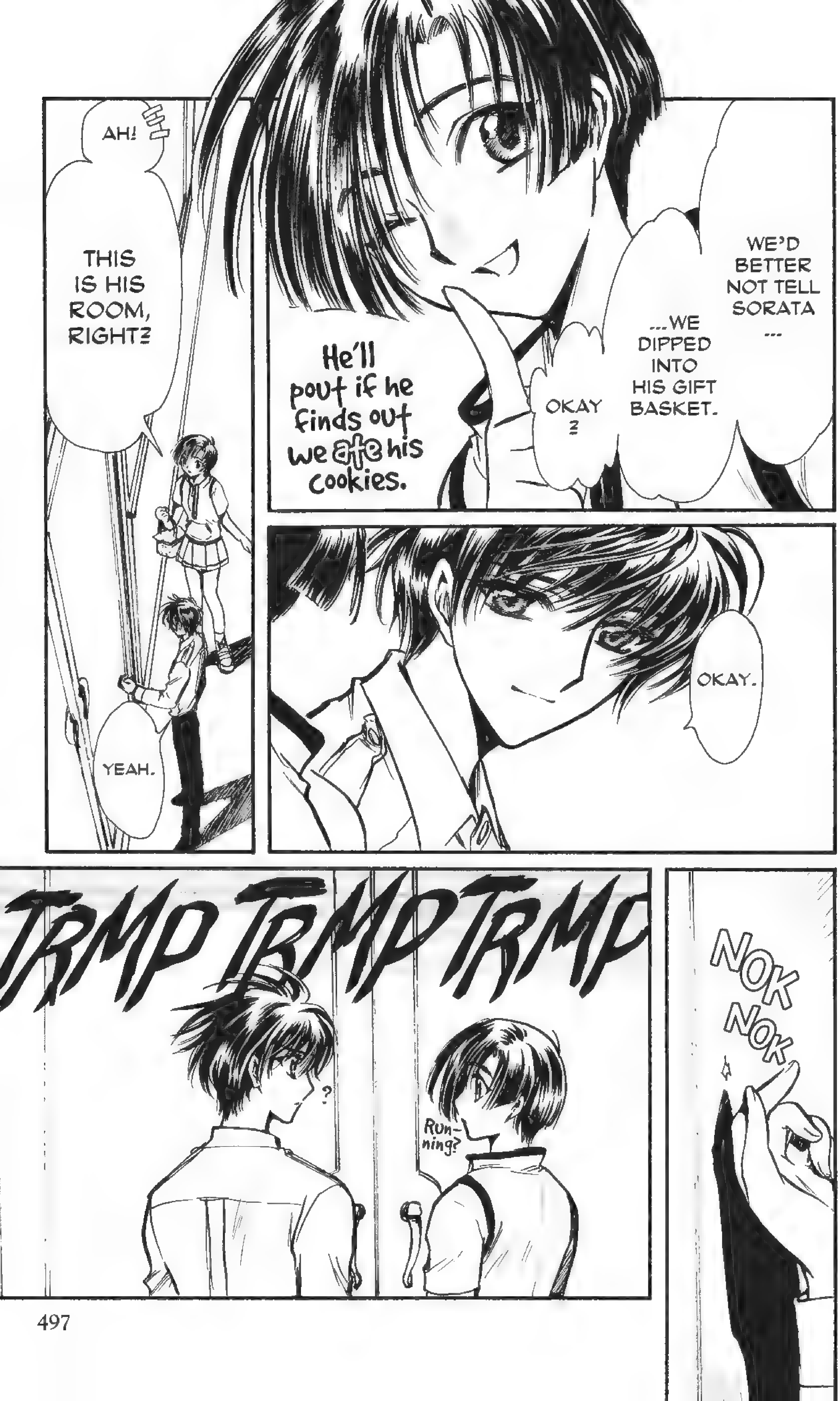

...THE FUTURE WILL UNFOLD ACCORDING TO THAT DREAM.
IF THE KAMUI...
...NEVER FULLY COMPREHENDS THE OTHER KAMUI'S WISH...
...THAT FUTURE WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

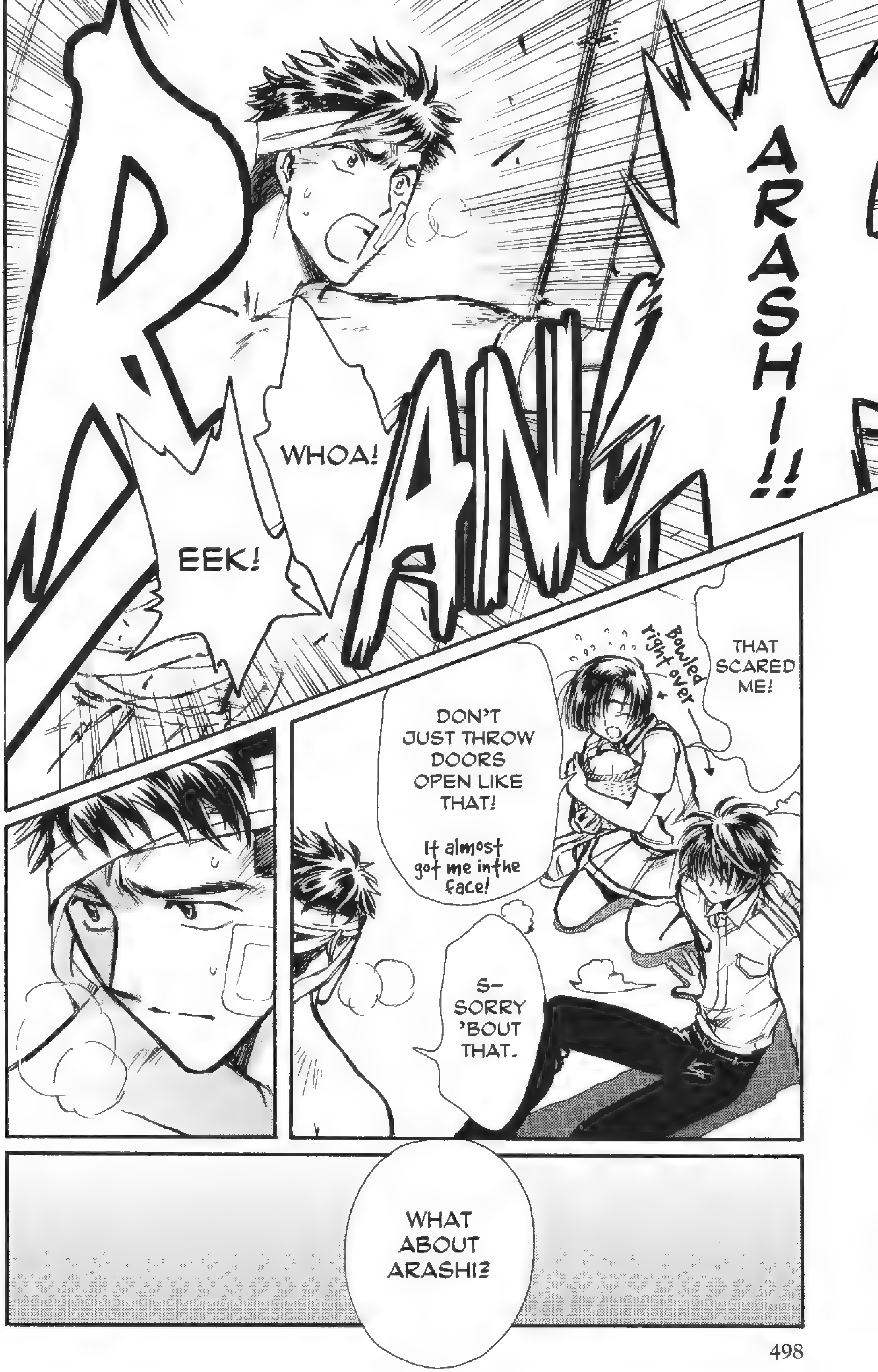

GLOW
The future ...
...has yet to be decided.
CAN YOUR WISH ...
... EVER COME TRUE?
SSHH

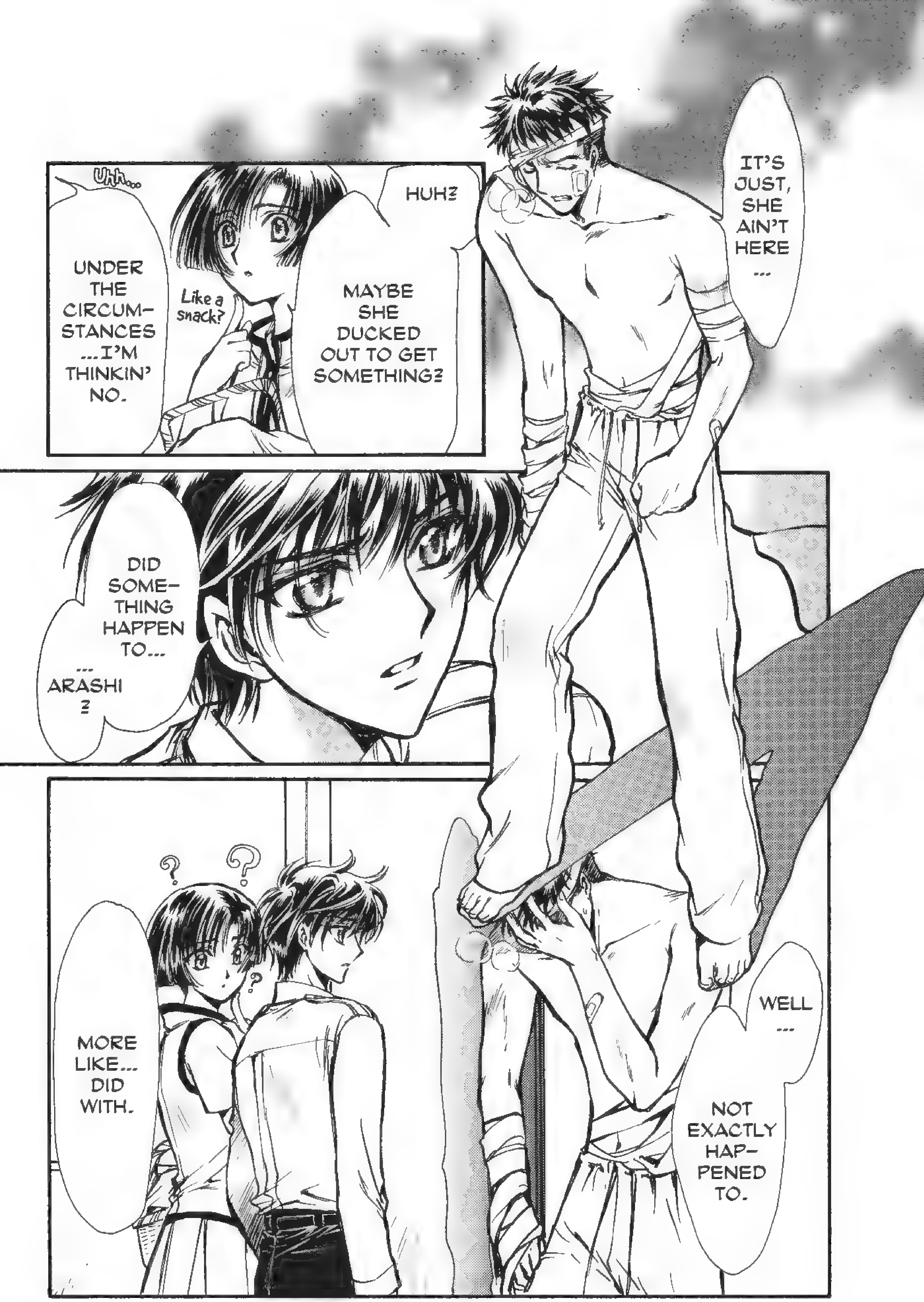

TMP
TMP
I WONDER HOW SORATA'S DOING.
ARASHI SAID SHE'D STAY WITH HIM.
BUT HE'S DOING BETTER, ISN'T HE?
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS HURT PRETTY BAD.
YEAH.
I'M GLAD HE'S PULLED THROUGH.
REALLY GLAD.

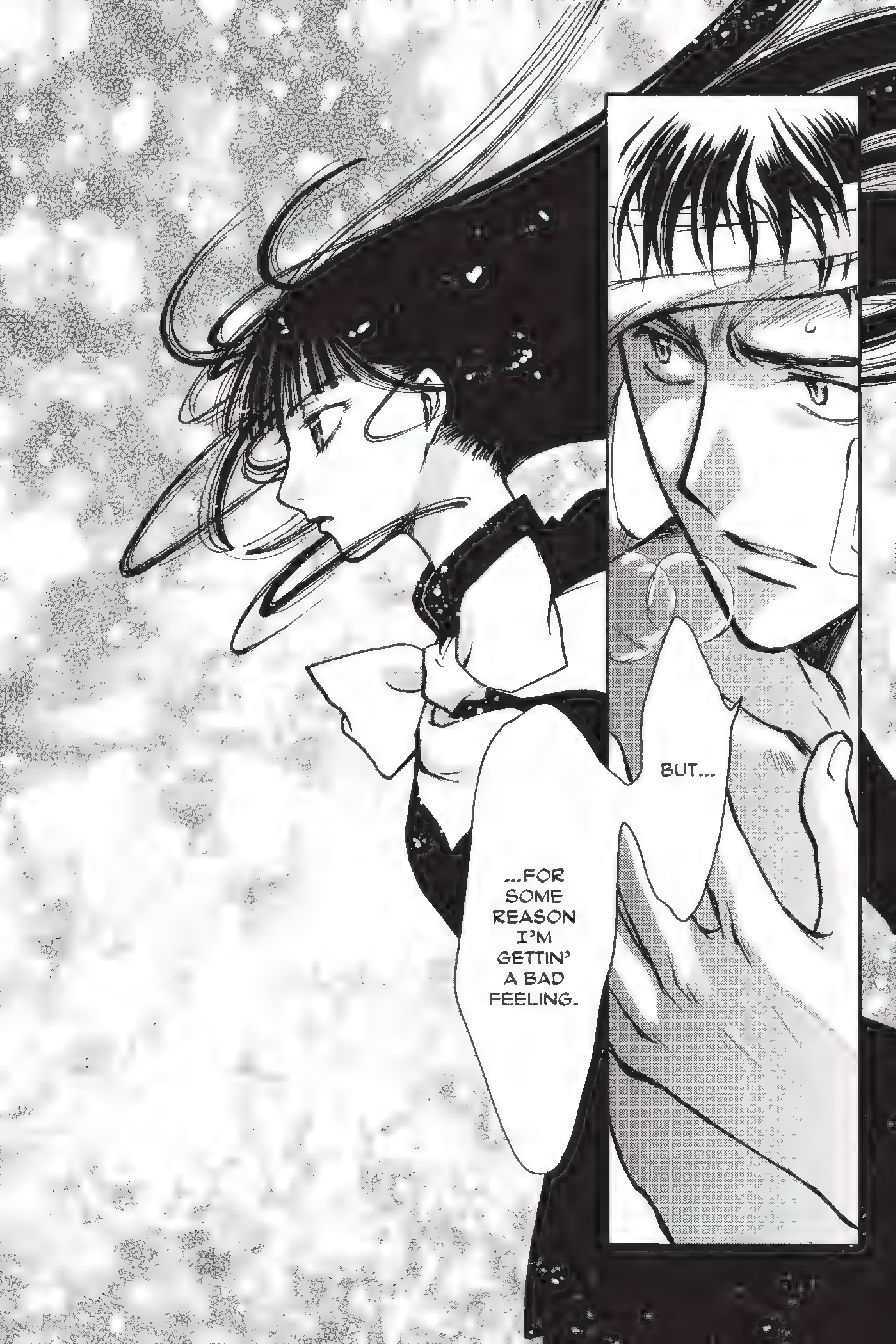

IT'S JUST ...
...I CARE ABOUT HIM A LOT, YOU KNOW?
THE THOUGHT OF LOSING ANYONE WHO MEANS SO MUCH TO ME...
SNF
... BREAKS MY HEART.
I FEEL LIKE I'D DIE FROM SADNESS.
I'M SO, SO GLAD HE'S ALL RIGHT.
IF SOMEONE YOU LOVE THAT MUCH DIED...
...YOU COULD ALMOST DIE TOO FROM THE GRIEF.

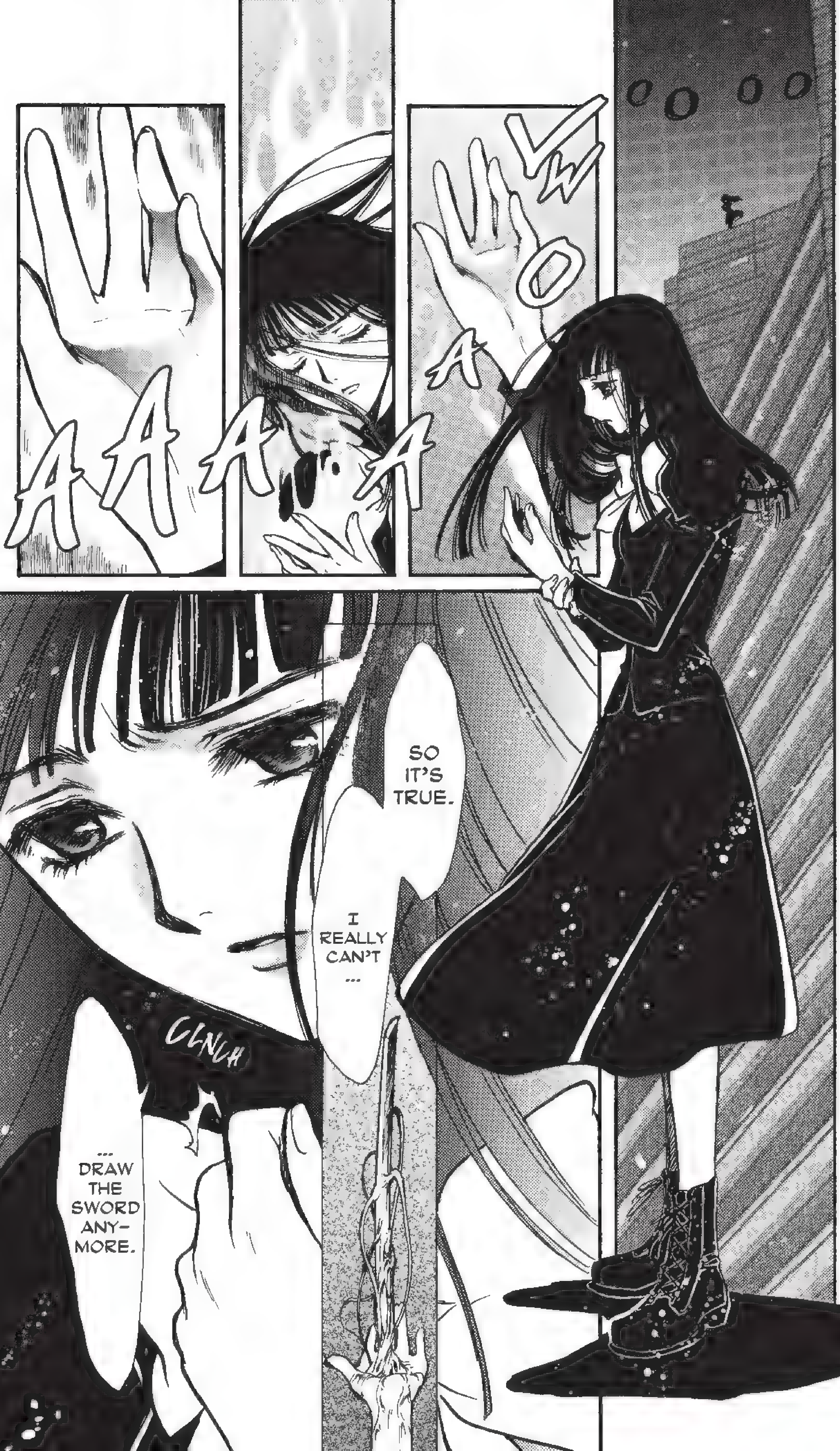

KAMUI ...?
HM?
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
NO.
I'M FINE.
RSTL
HERE!
CHOMP
MUNCH MUNCH

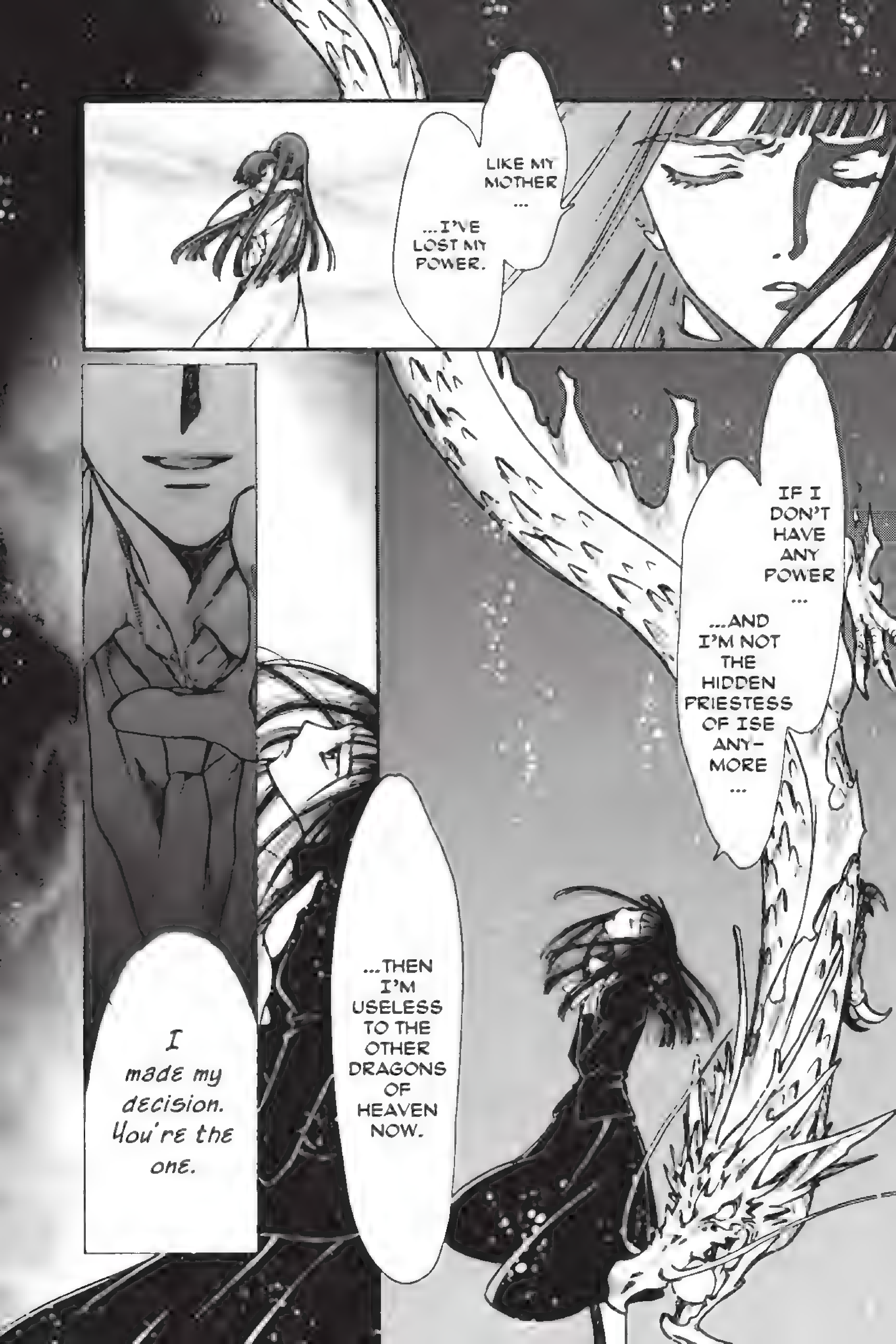

WE'D BETTER NOT TELL SORATA ...
...WE DIPPED INTO HIS GIFT BASKET.
OKAY?
He'll pout if he finds out we ate his cookies.
OKAY.
AH!
THIS IS HIS ROOM, RIGHT?
YEAH.
NOK NOK
TRMP TRMP TRMP
?
Running?

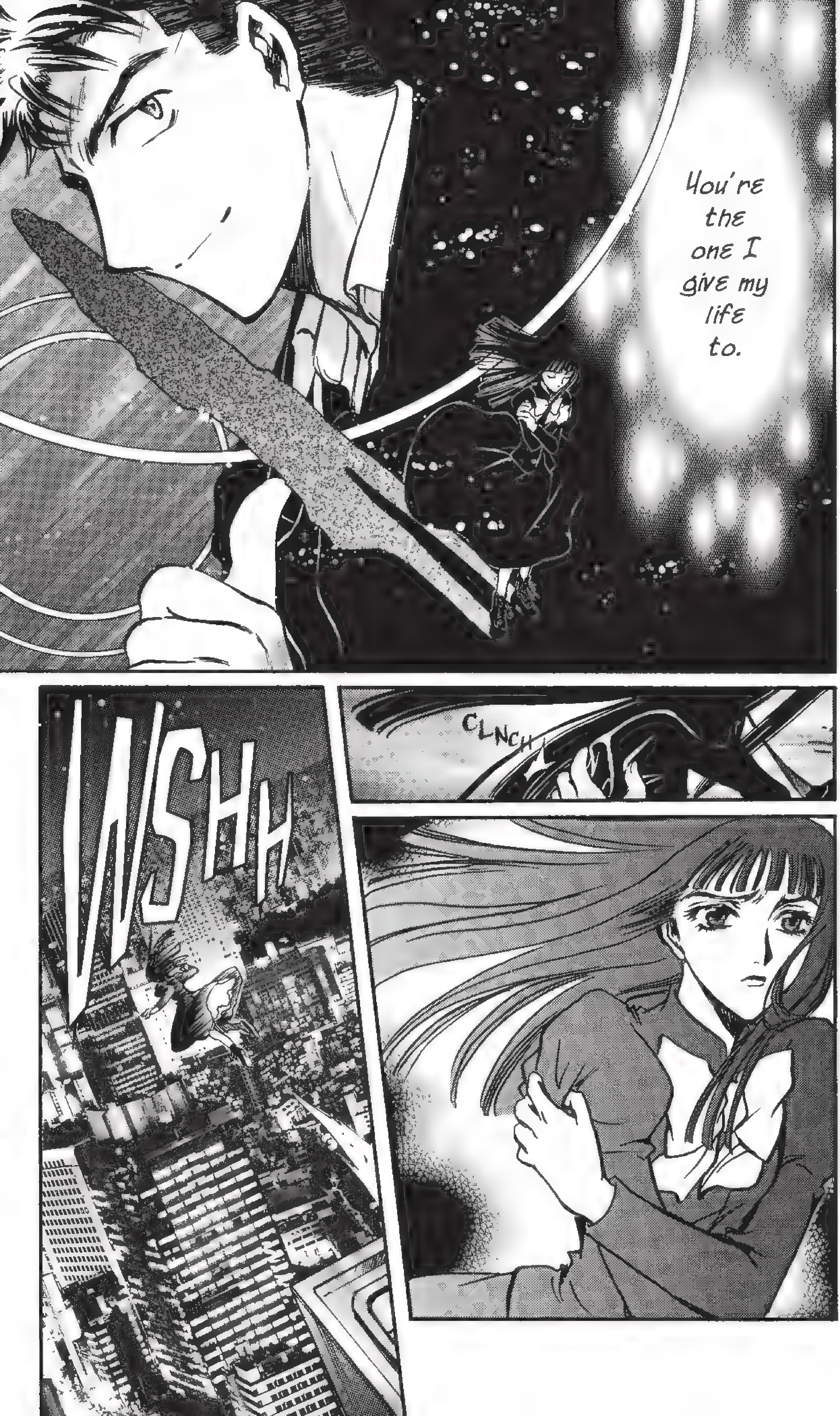

ARASHI!!
BANG
WHOA!
EEK!
THAT SCARED ME!
Bowled right over
DON'T JUST THROW DOORS OPEN LIKE THAT!
It almost got me in the face!
S-SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
WHAT ABOUT ARASHI?

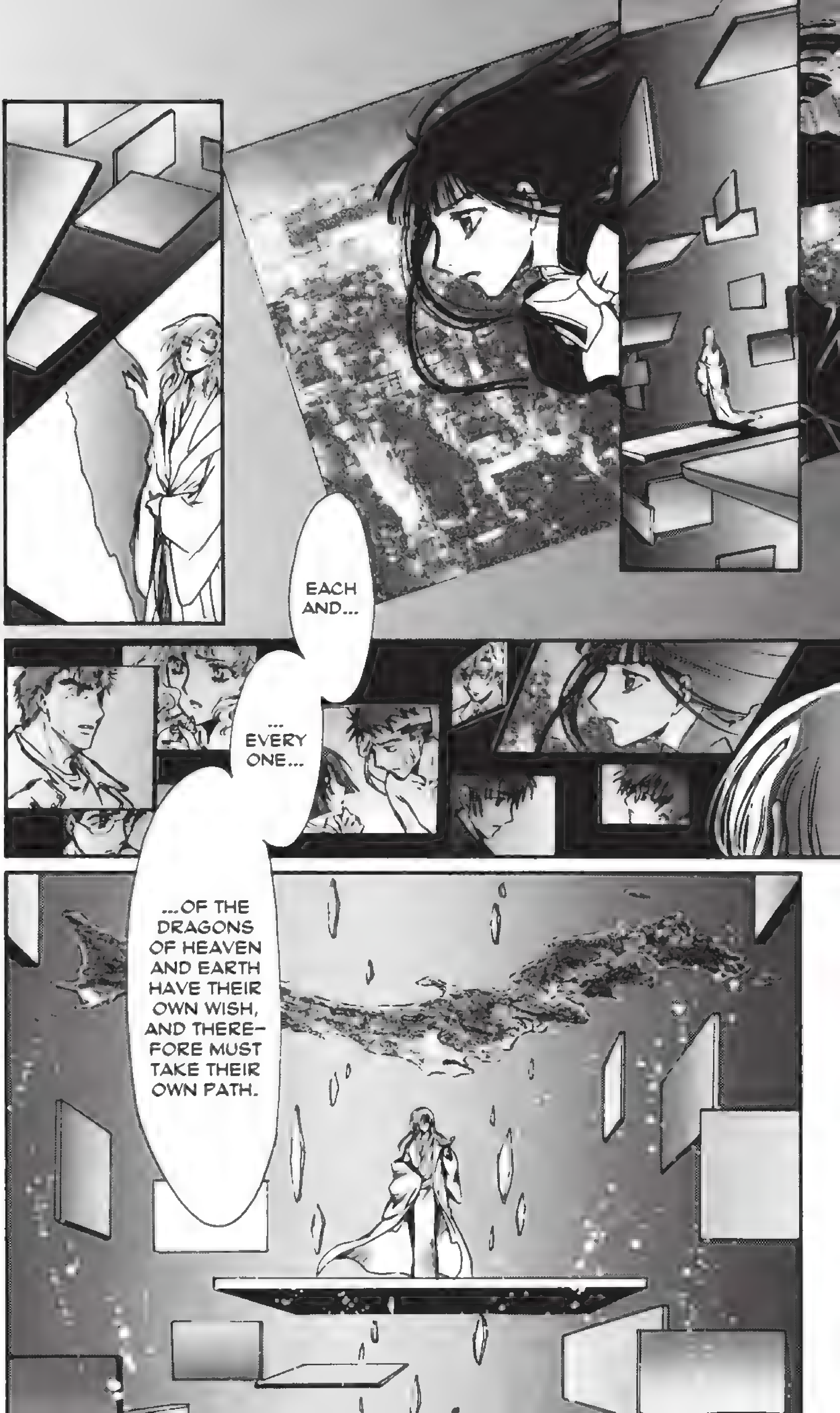

IT'S JUST, SHE AIN'T HERE...
HUH?
MAYBE SHE DUCKED OUT TO GET SOMETHING?
Like a snack?
Uhh...
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES ...I'M THINKIN' NO.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO... ...ARASHI?
WELL... NOT EXACTLY HAPPENED TO.
MORE LIKE... DID WITH.

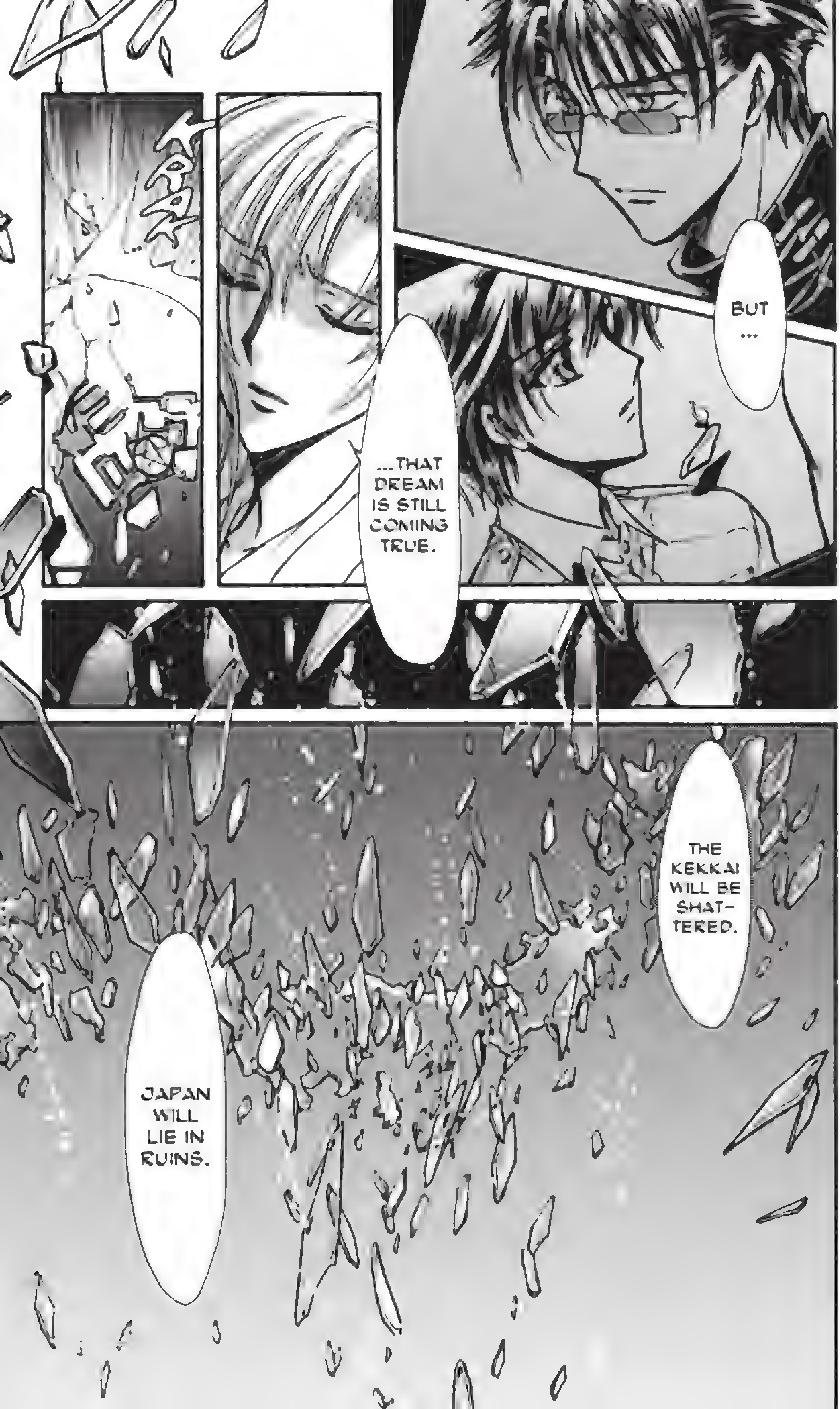

BUT...
...FOR SOME REASON I'M GETTIN' A BAD FEELING.


VWO
OOOO
AAAAA
SO IT'S TRUE.
I REALLY CAN'T ...
CLNCH
... DRAW THE SWORD ANYMORE.

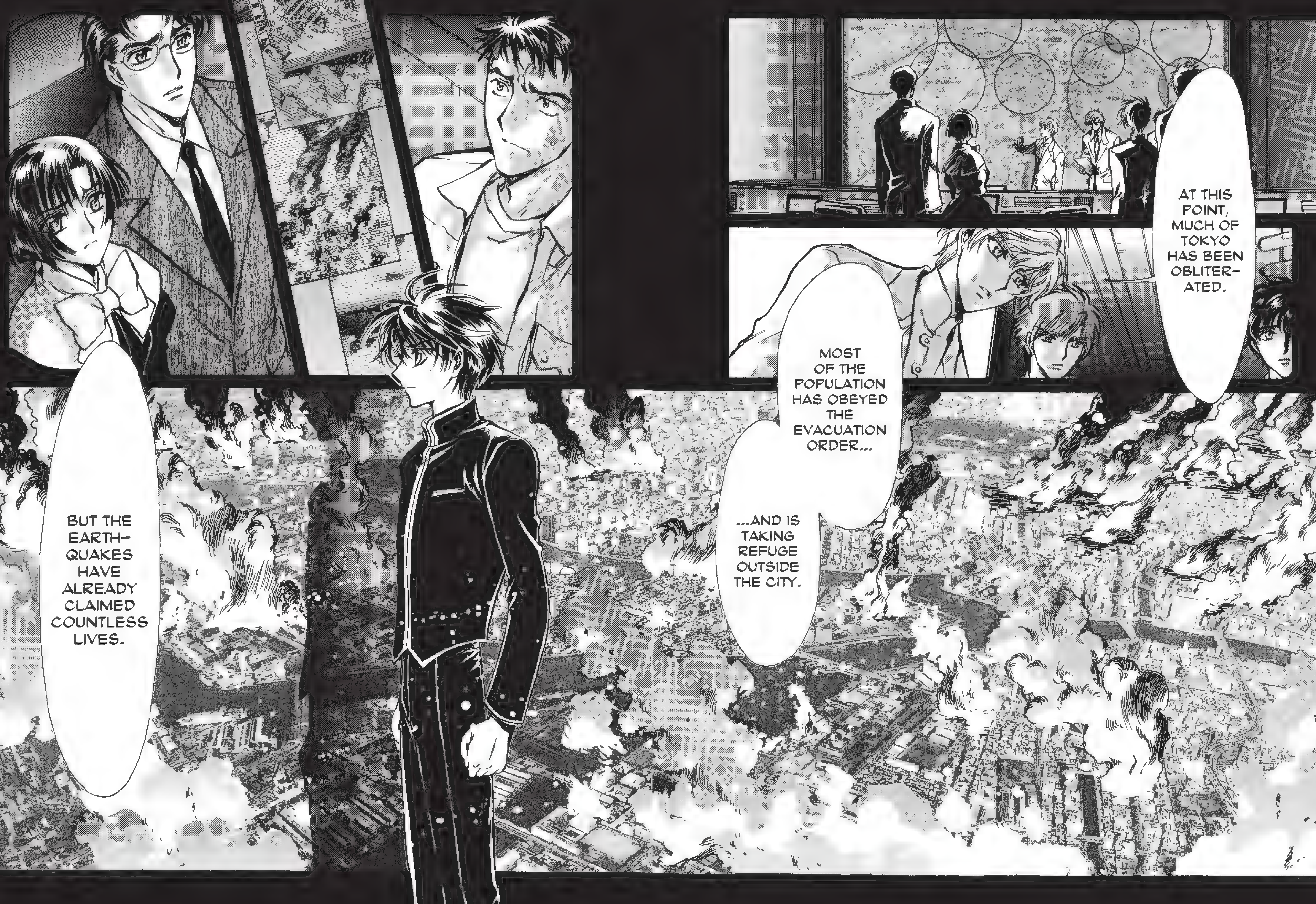

LIKE MY MOTHER ...
...I'VE LOST MY POWER.
IF I DON'T HAVE ANY POWER ...
...AND I'M NOT THE HIDDEN PRIESTESS OF ISE ANY-MORE ...
...THEN I'M USELESS TO THE OTHER DRAGONS OF HEAVEN NOW.
I made my decision. You're the one.

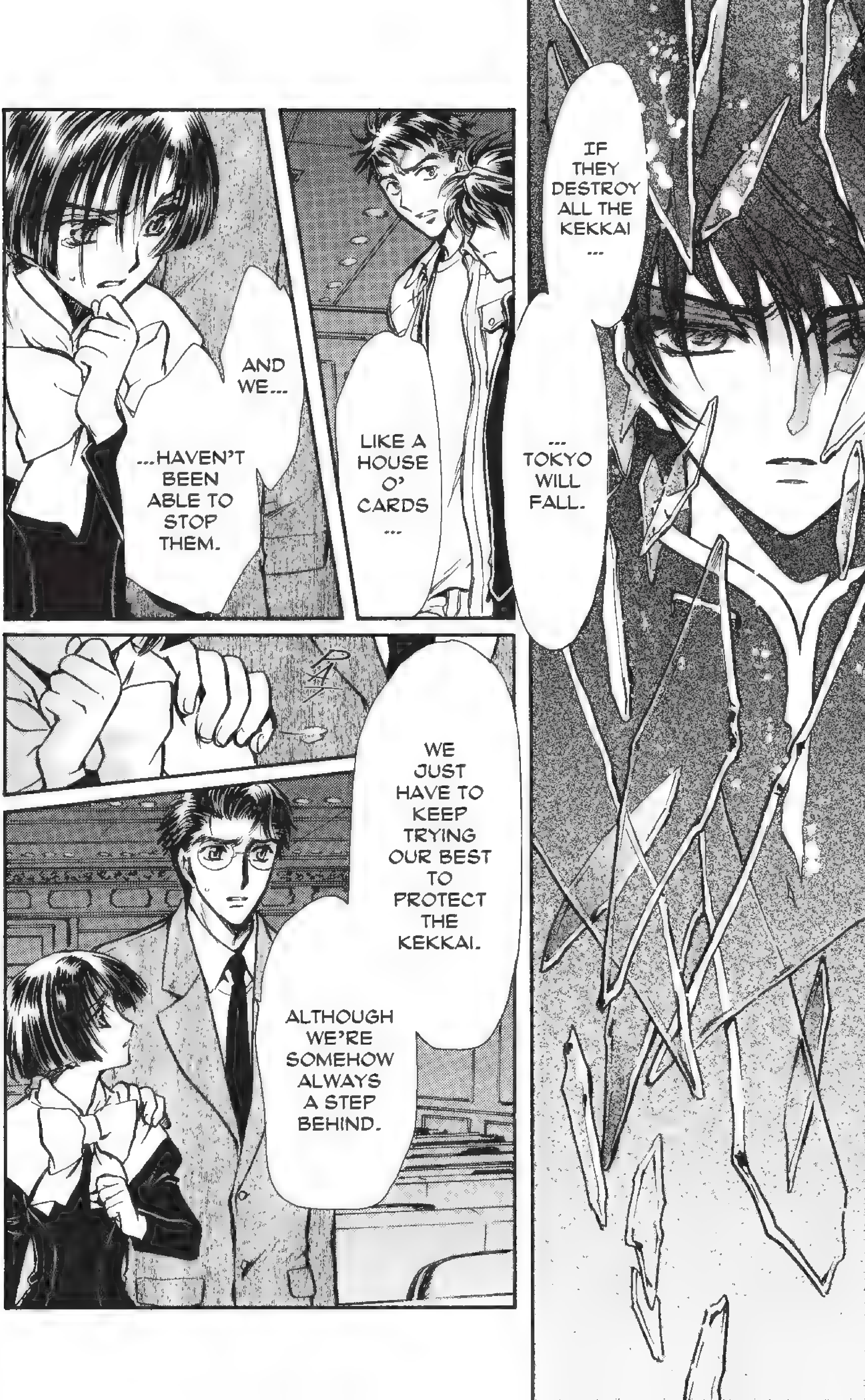

You're the one I give my life to.
CLNCH
WSHH

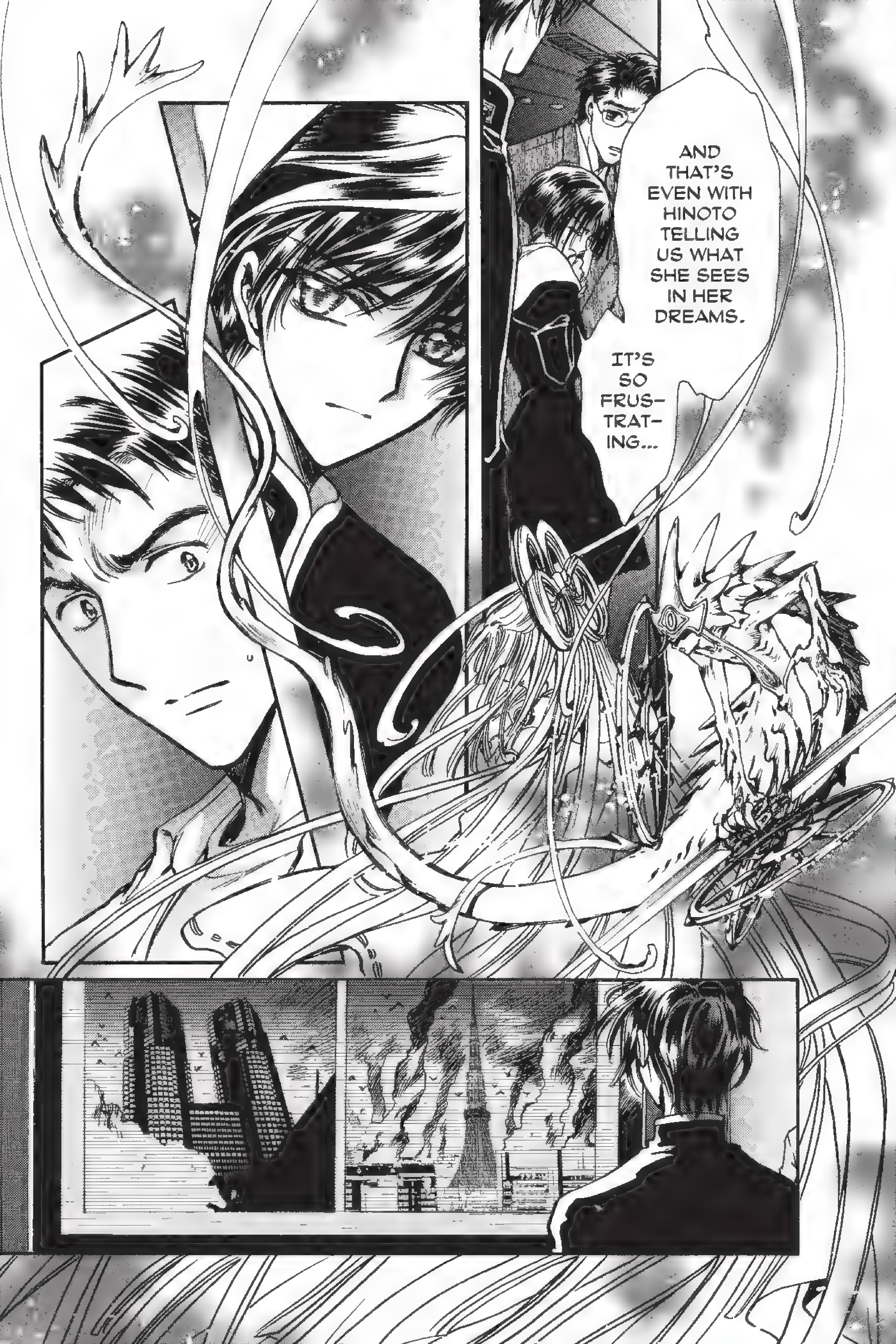

EACH AND...
... EVERY ONE...
...OF THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH HAVE THEIR OWN WISH, AND THEREFORE MUST TAKE THEIR OWN PATH.

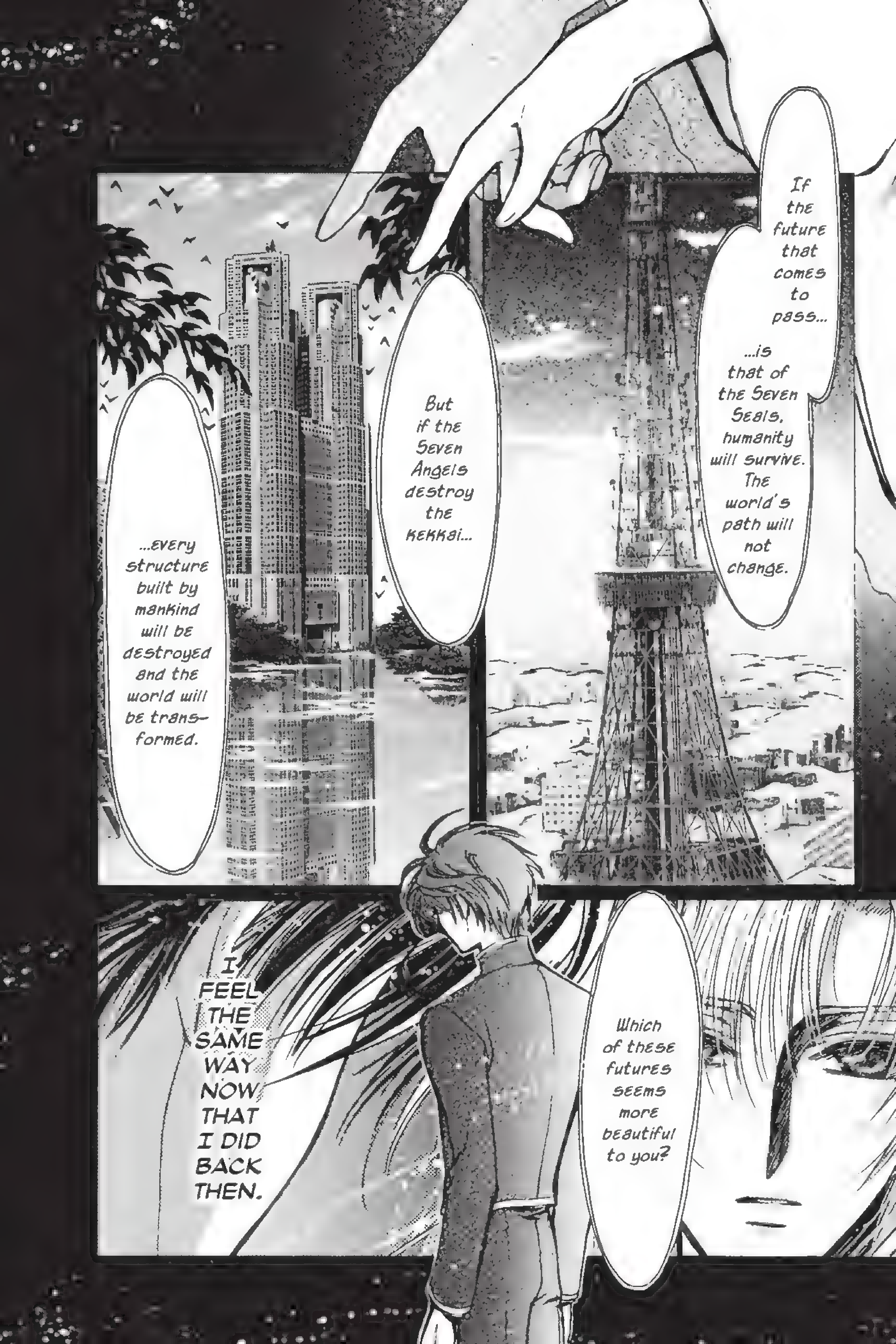

BUT...
...THAT DREAM IS STILL COMING TRUE.
KRAK
THE KEKKAI WILL BE SHATTERED.
JAPAN WILL LIE IN RUINS.

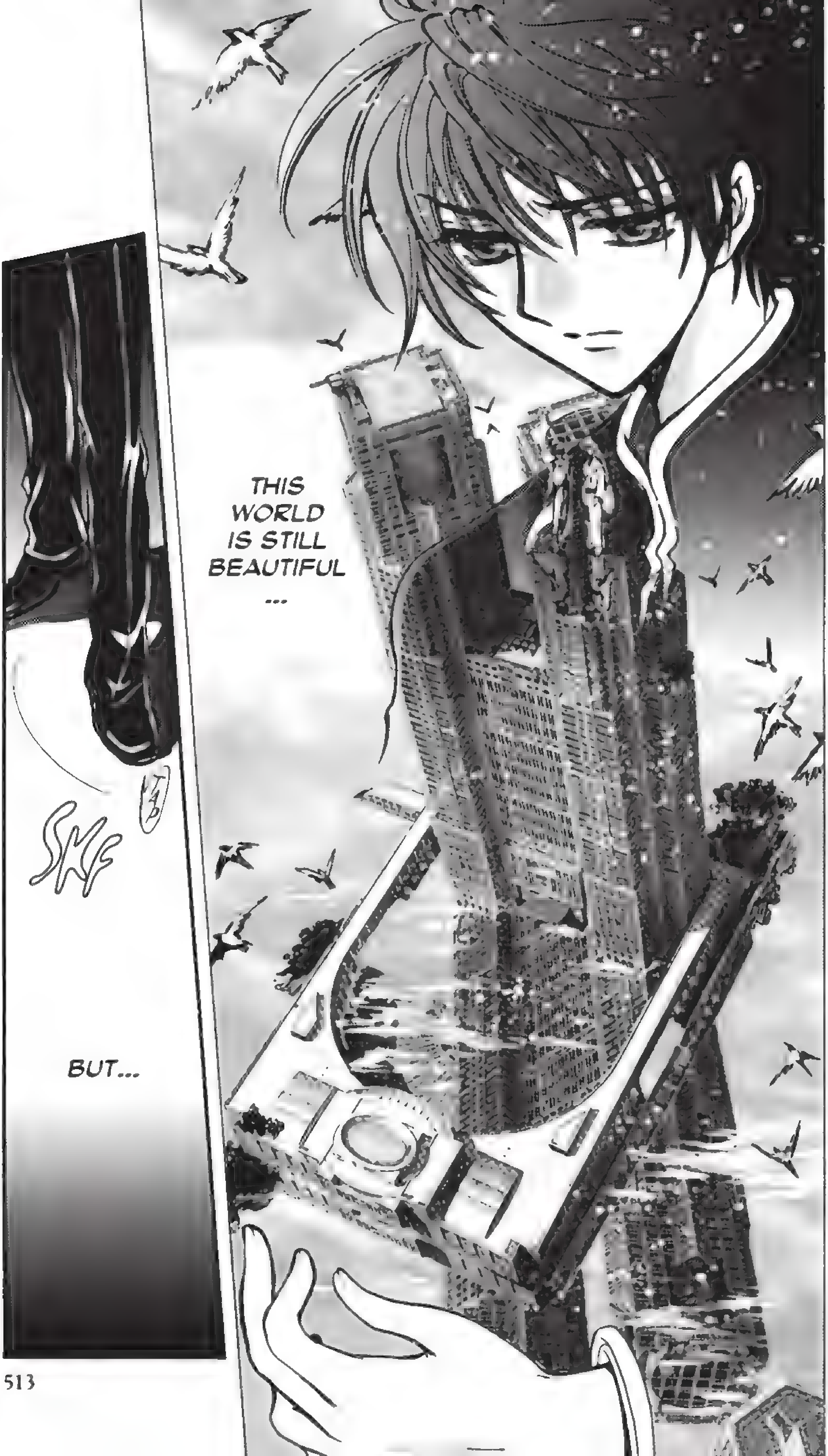
THE WORLD WILL BE TORN ASUNDER.

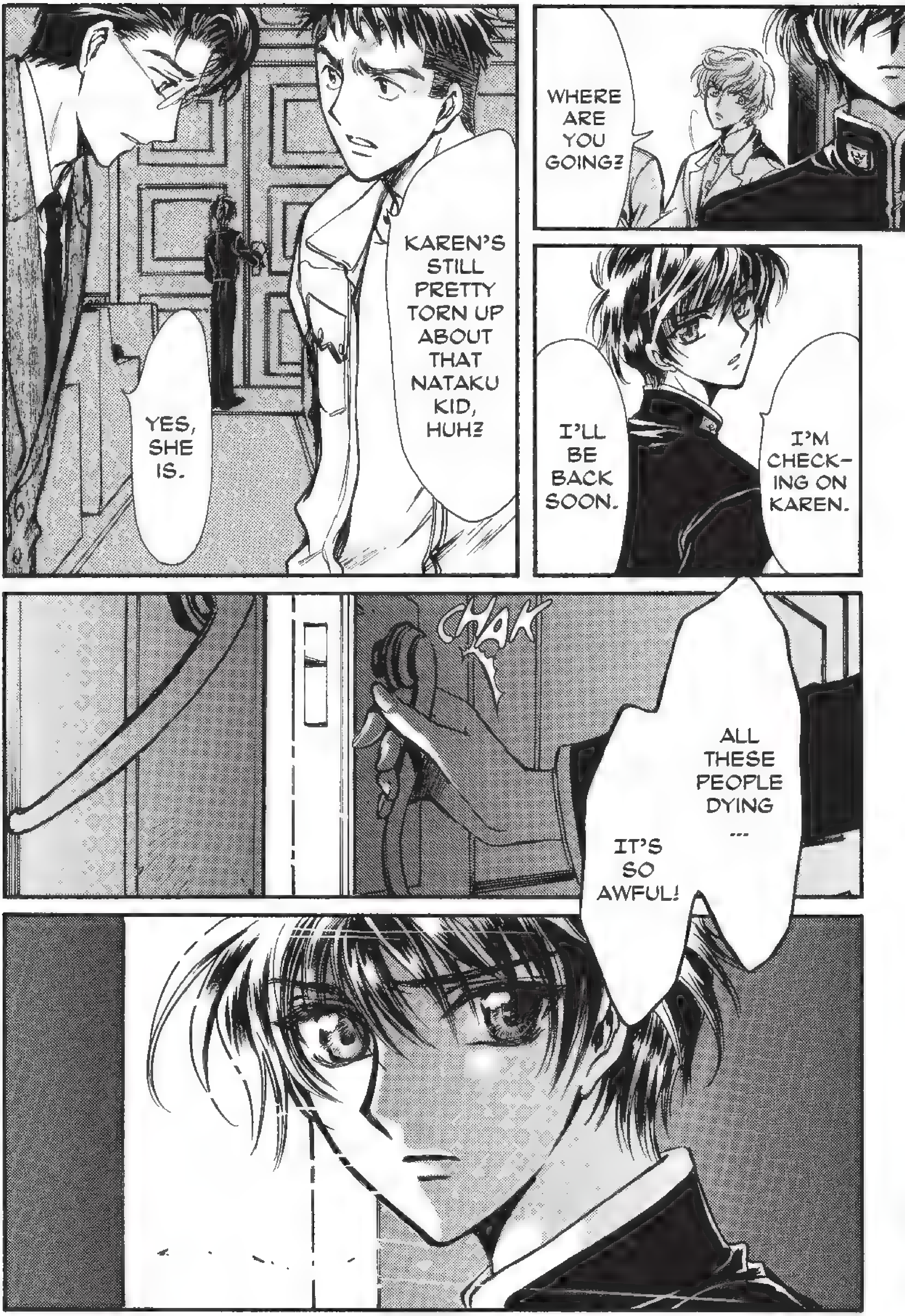

AT THIS POINT, MUCH OF TOKYO HAS BEEN OBLITERATED.
MOST OF THE POPULATION HAS OBEYED THE EVACUATION ORDER...
...AND IS TAKING REFUGE OUTSIDE THE CITY.
BUT THE EARTHQUAKES HAVE ALREADY CLAIMED COUNTLESS LIVES.

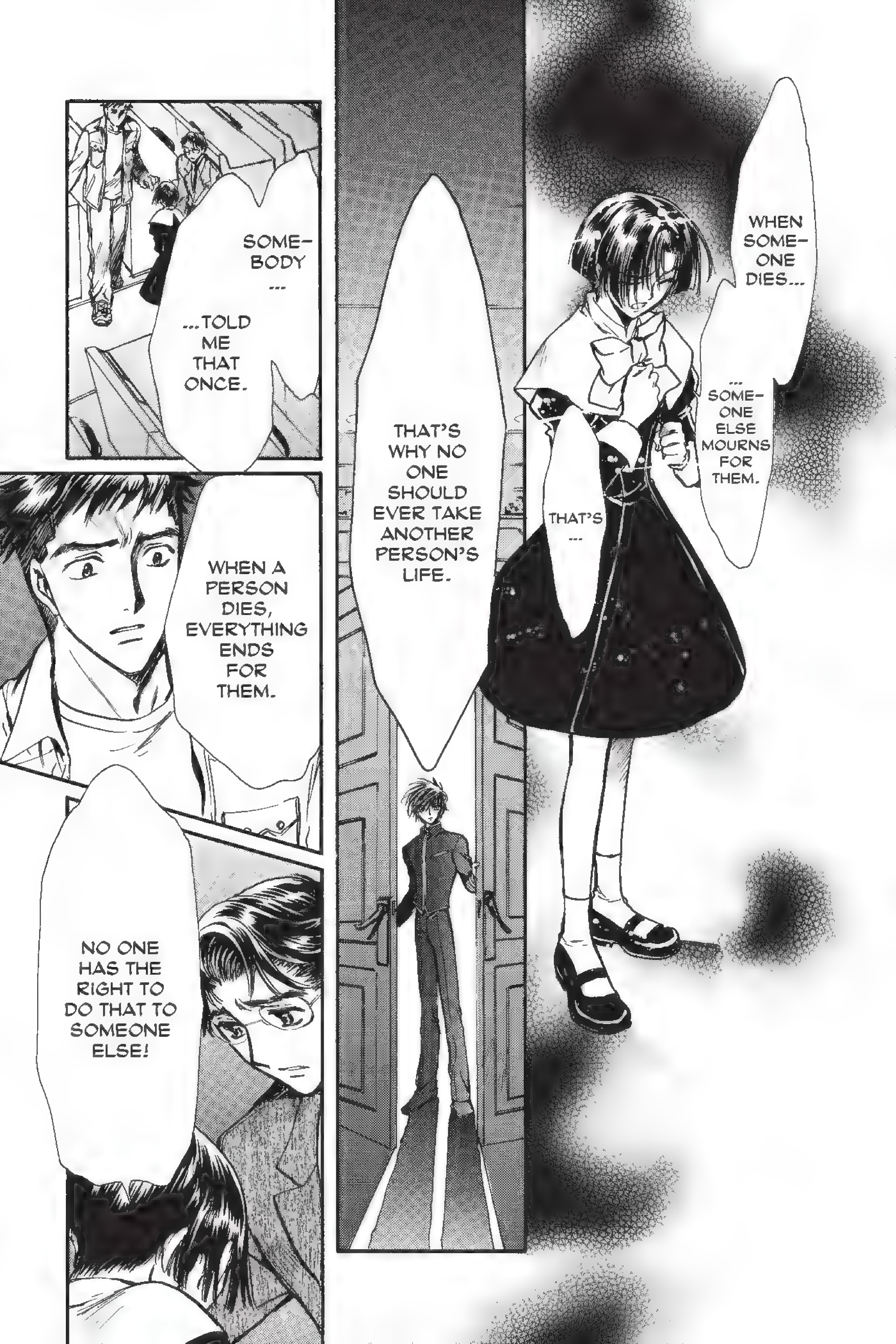

IF THEY DESTROY ALL THE KEKKAI ...
... TOKYO WILL FALL.
LIKE A HOUSE O' CARDS ...
AND WE...
...HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO STOP THEM.
WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP TRYING OUR BEST TO PROTECT THE KEKKAI.
ALTHOUGH WE'RE SOMEHOW ALWAYS A STEP BEHIND.

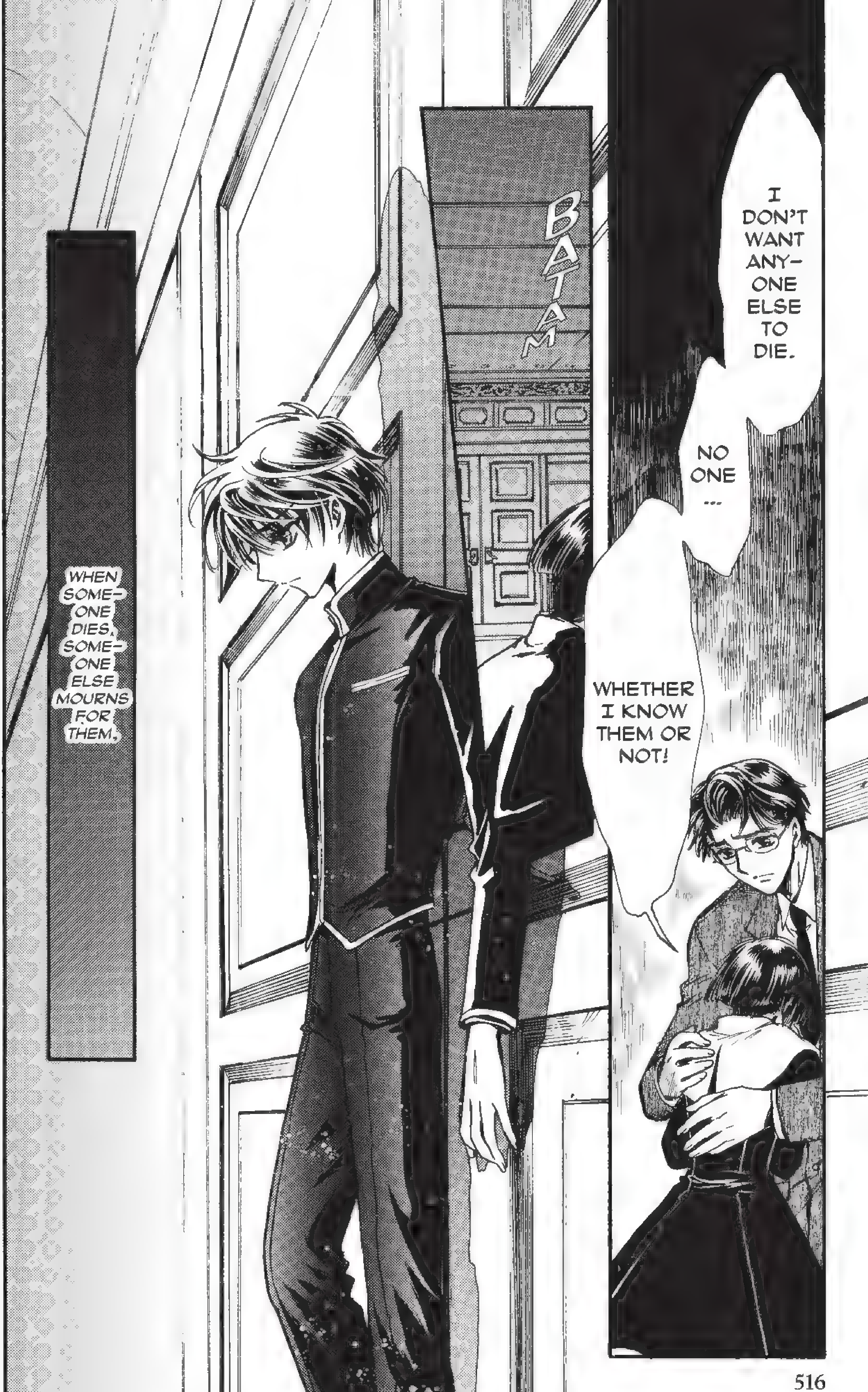

AND THAT'S EVEN WITH HINOTO TELLING US WHAT SHE SEES IN HER DREAMS.
IT'S SO FRUSTRATING...

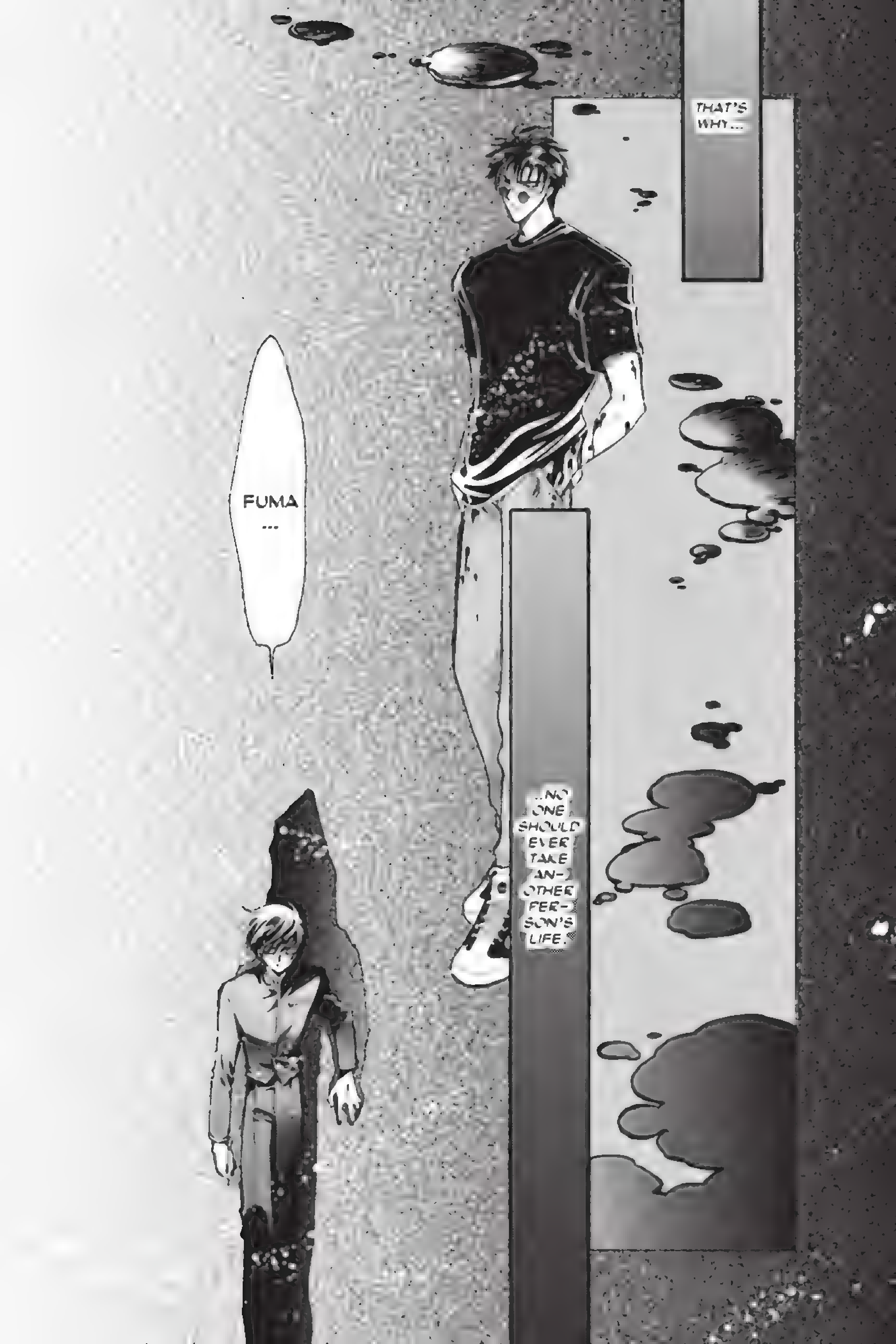

If the future that comes to pass...
...is that of the Seven Seals, humanity will survive. The world's path will not change.
But if the Seven Angels destroy the kekkai...
...every structure built by mankind will be destroyed and the world will be transformed.
Which of these futures seems more beautiful to you?
I FEEL THE SAME WAY NOW THAT I DID BACK THEN.

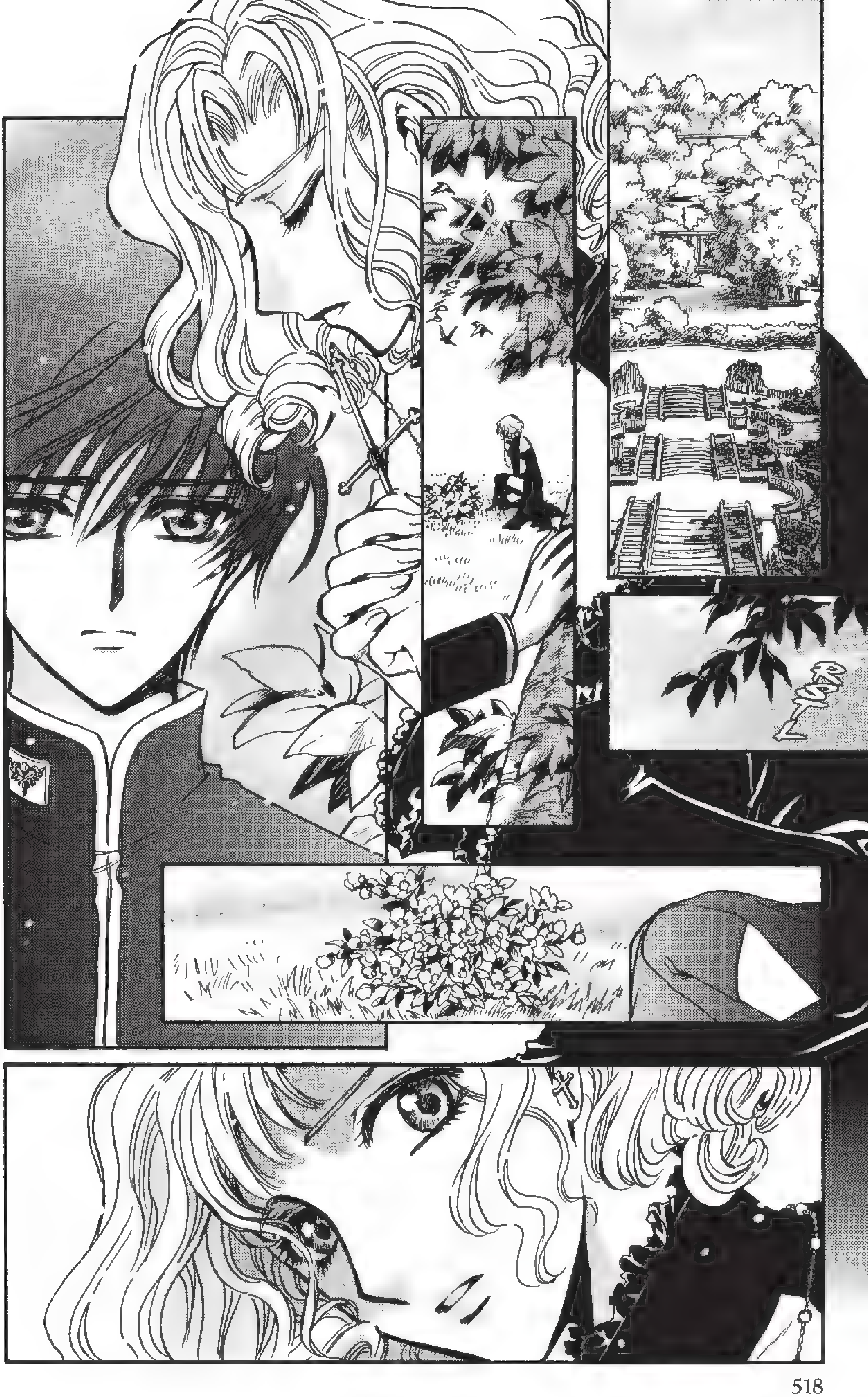

THIS WORLD IS STILL BEAUTIFUL ...
TAP
SHF
BUT...

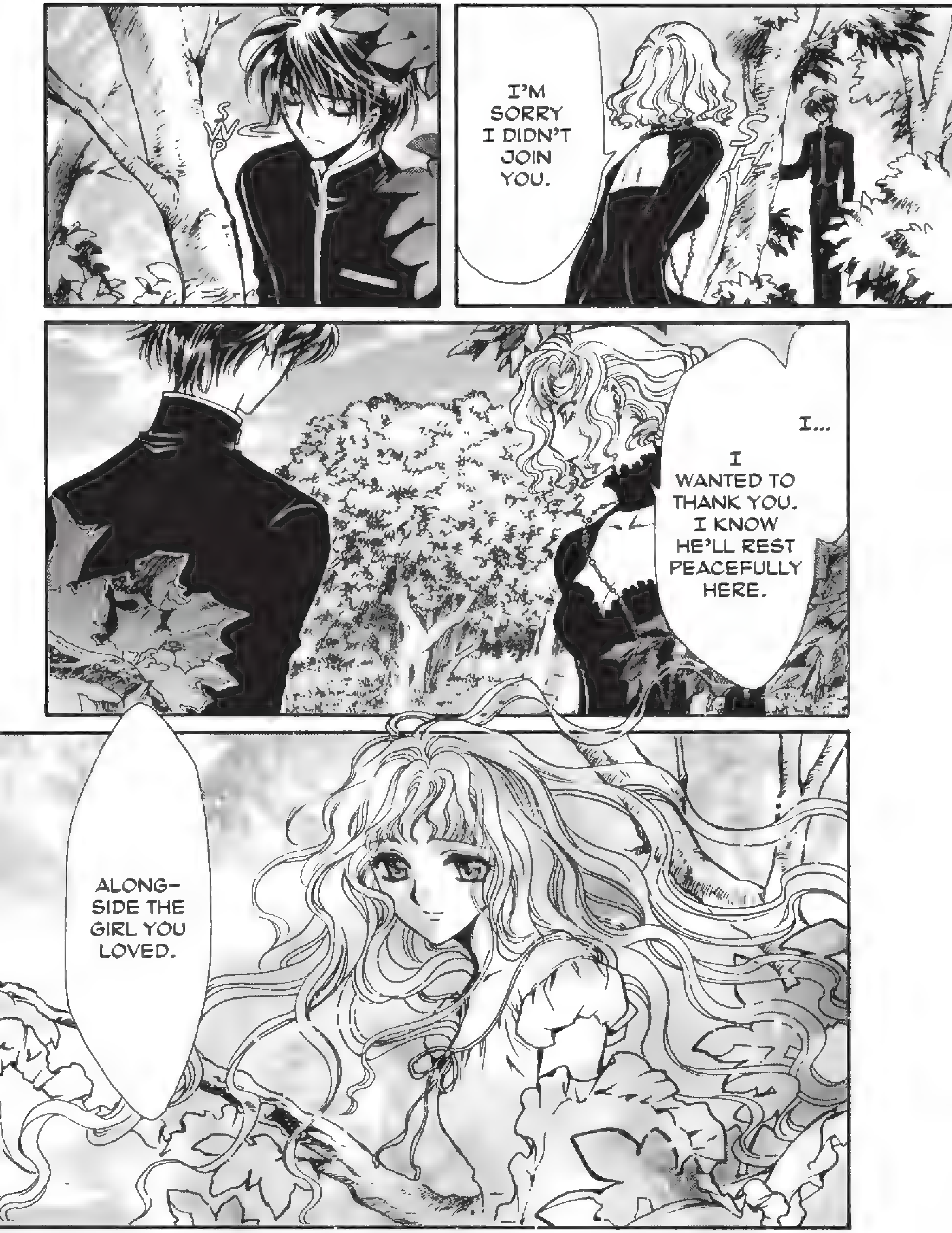

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M CHECKING ON KAREN.
I'LL BE BACK SOON.
KAREN'S STILL PRETTY TORN UP ABOUT THAT NATAKU KID, HUH?
YES, SHE IS.
CHAK
ALL THESE PEOPLE DYING...
IT'S SO AWFUL!

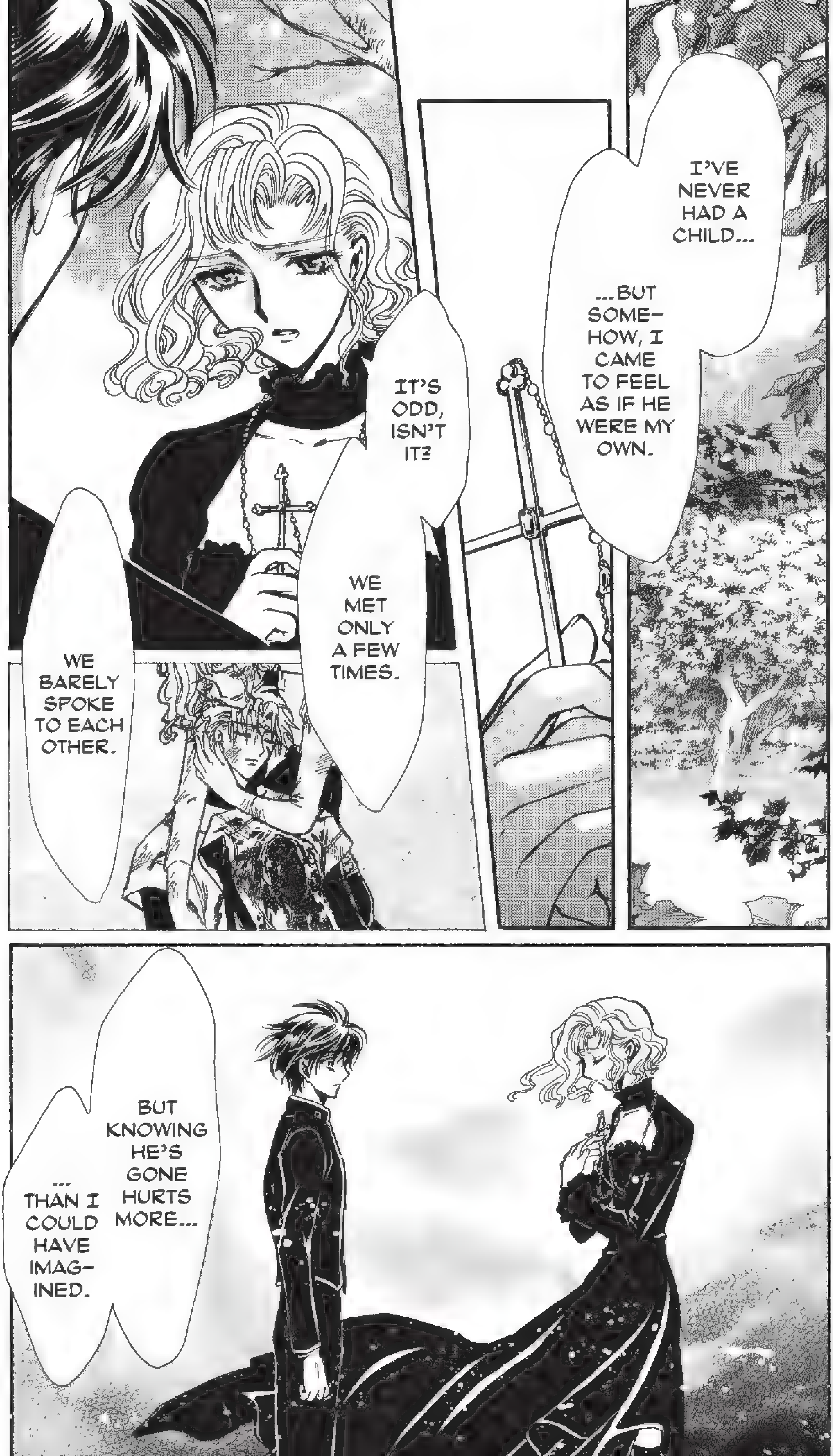

WHEN SOMEONE DIES...
...SOMEONE ELSE MOURNS FOR THEM.
THAT'S...
THAT'S WHY NO ONE SHOULD EVER TAKE ANOTHER PERSON'S LIFE.
SOMEBODY... ...TOLD ME THAT ONCE.
WHEN A PERSON DIES, EVERYTHING ENDS FOR THEM.
NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO DO THAT TO SOMEONE ELSE!

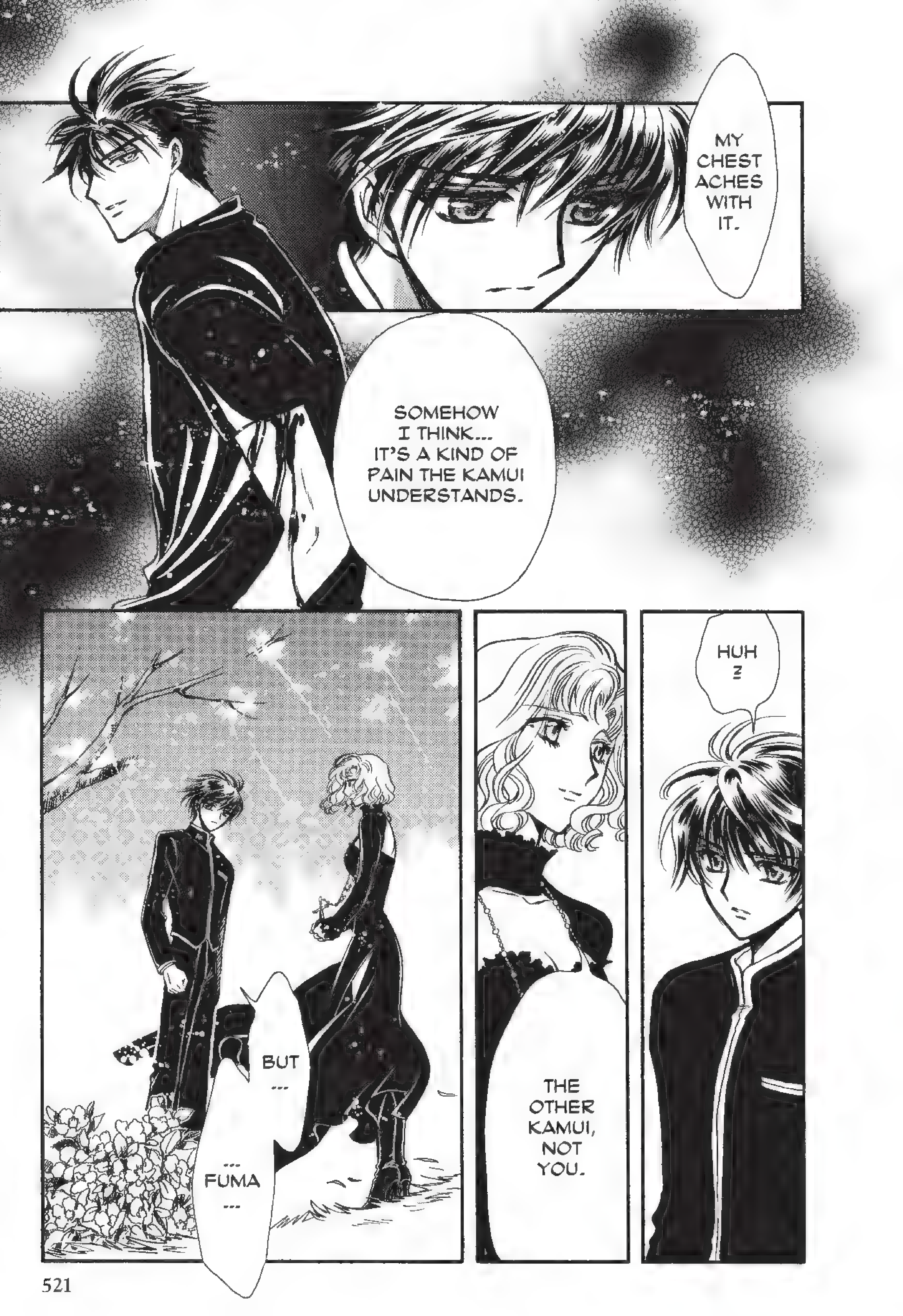

I DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO DIE.
NO ONE ...
WHETHER I KNOW THEM OR NOT!
BATAM
WHEN SOMEONE DIES, SOMEONE ELSE MOURNS FOR THEM.

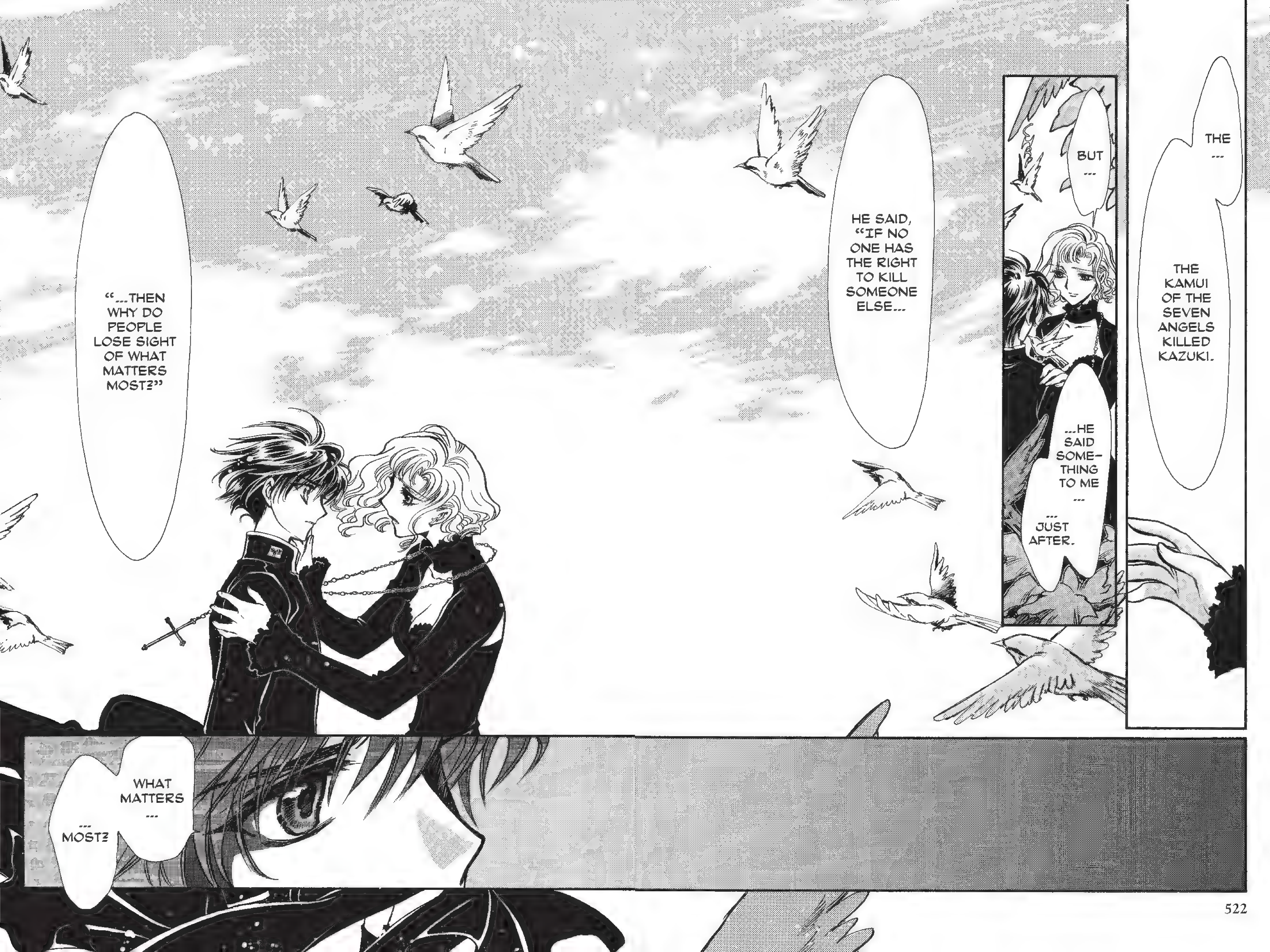

THAT'S WHY...
...NO ONE SHOULD EVER TAKE ANOTHER PERSON'S LIFE.
FUMA ...

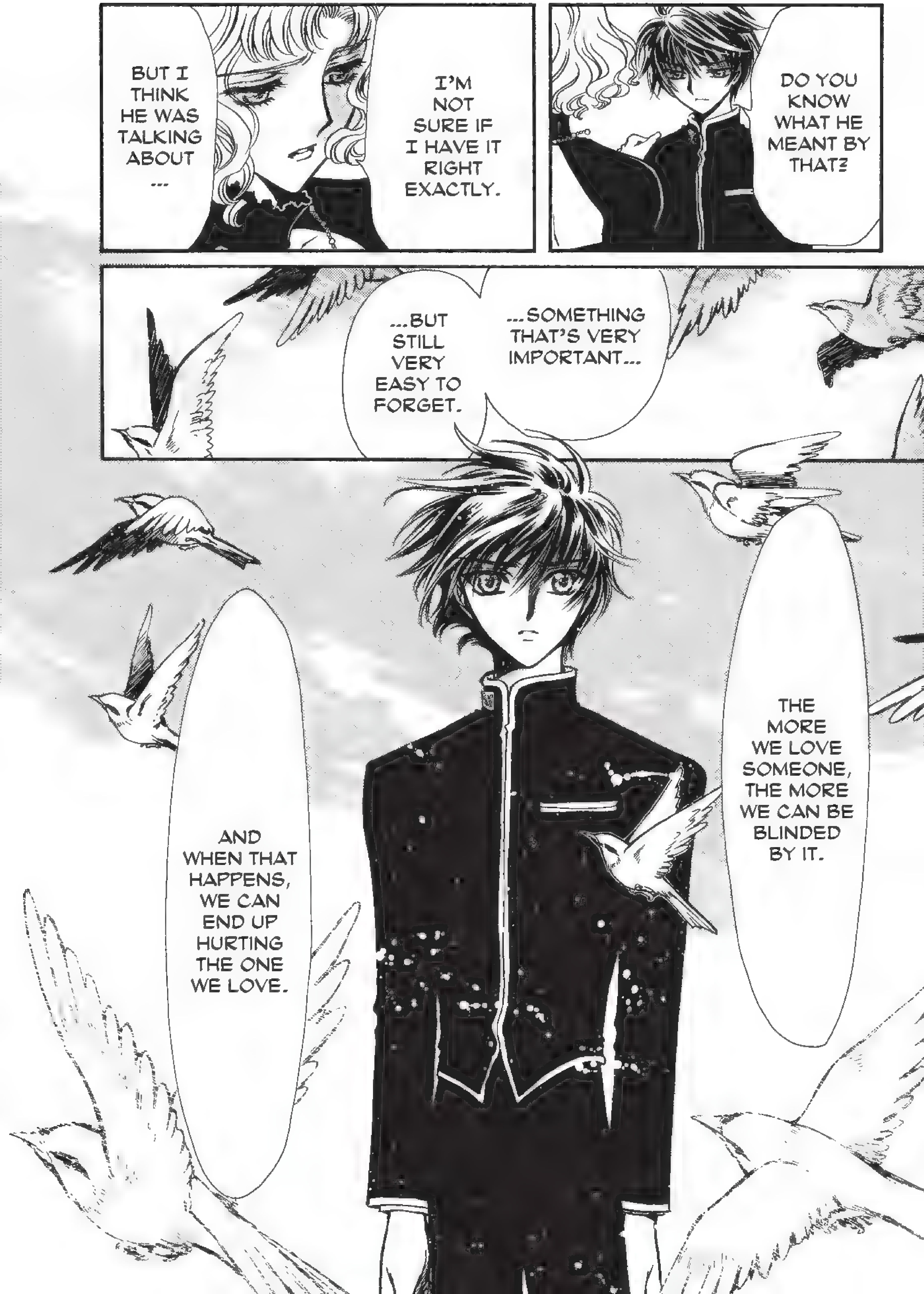

RSTL

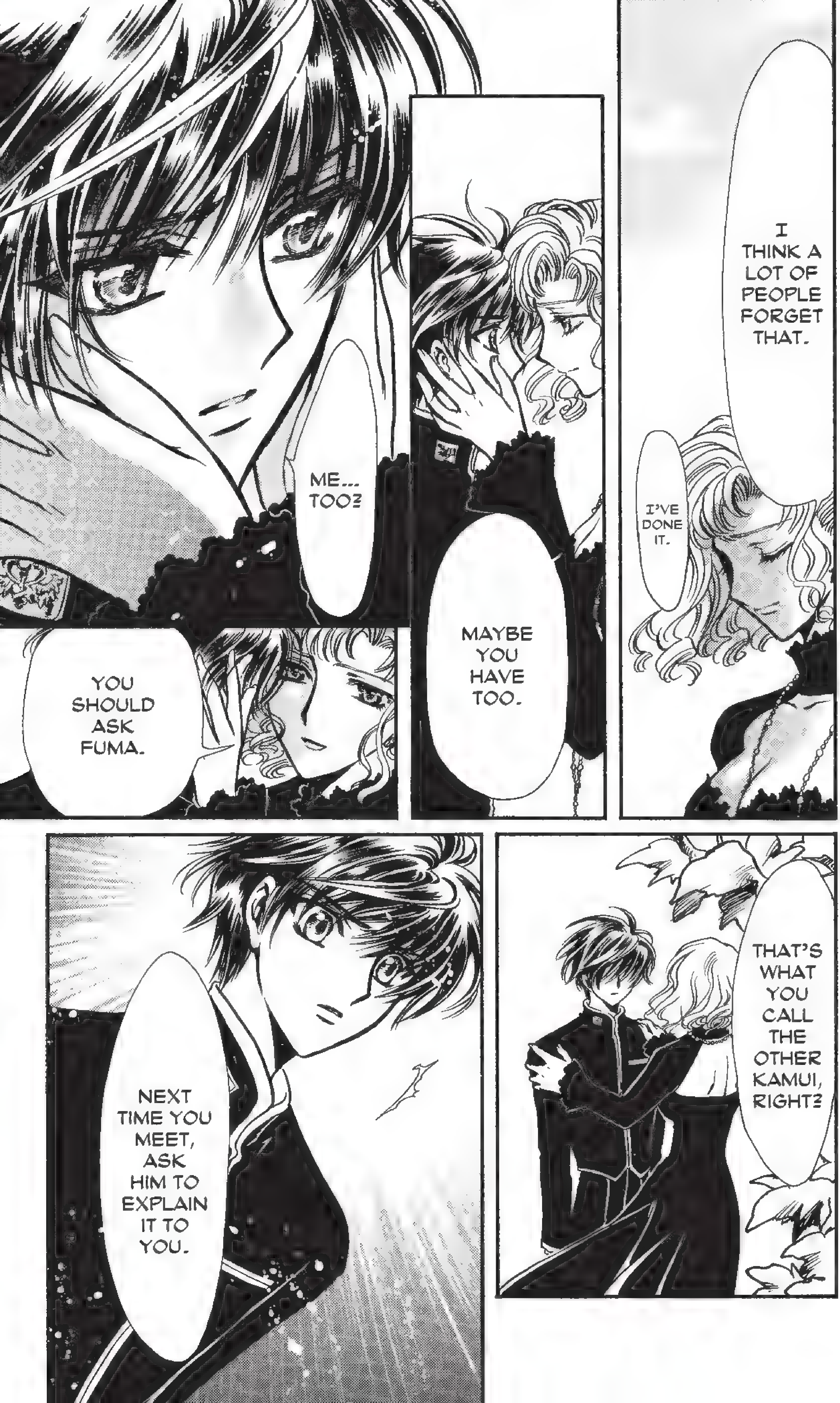

I'M SORRY I DIDN'T JOIN YOU.
I... I WANTED TO THANK YOU. I KNOW HE'LL REST PEACEFULLY HERE.
ALONGSIDE THE GIRL YOU LOVED.

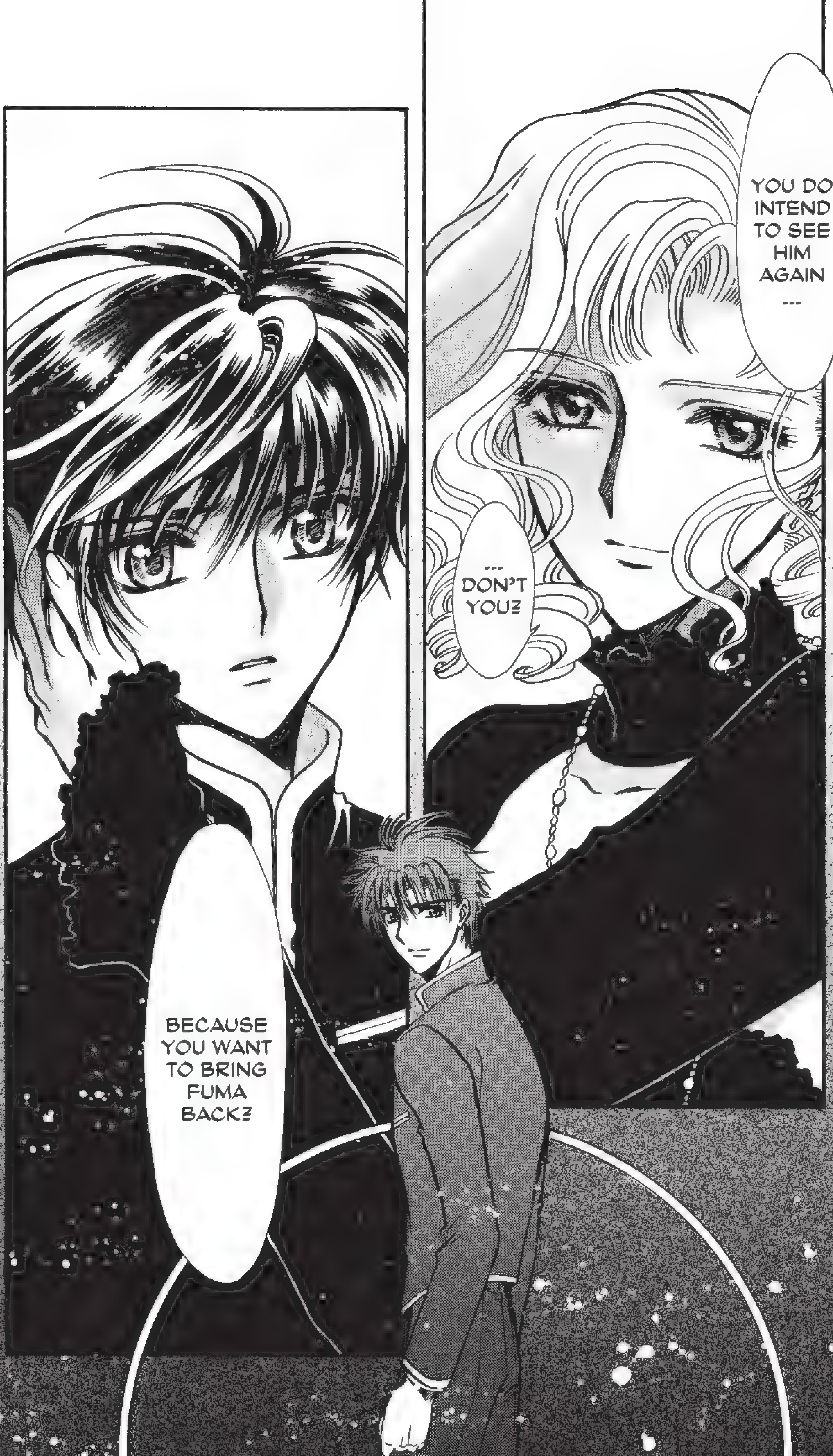

I'VE NEVER HAD A CHILD...
...BUT SOMEHOW, I CAME TO FEEL AS IF HE WERE MY OWN.
IT'S ODD, ISN'T IT?
WE MET ONLY A FEW TIMES.
WE BARELY SPOKE TO EACH OTHER.
BUT KNOWING HE'S GONE HURTS MORE...
...THAN I COULD HAVE IMAGINED.

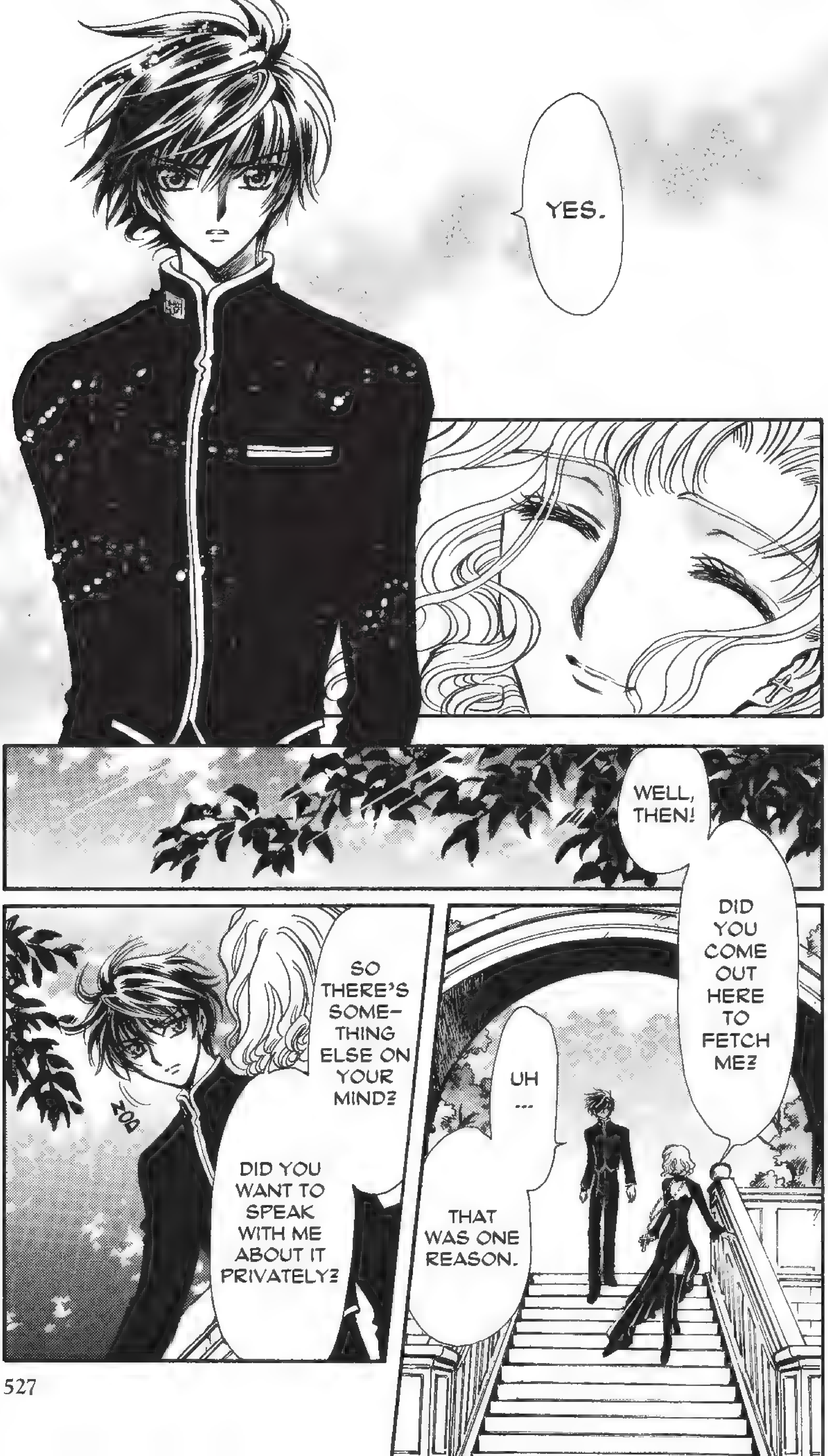

MY CHEST ACHES WITH IT.
SOMEHOW I THINK... IT'S A KIND OF PAIN THE KAMUI UNDERSTANDS.
HUH?
THE OTHER KAMUI, NOT YOU.
BUT... ...FUMA...

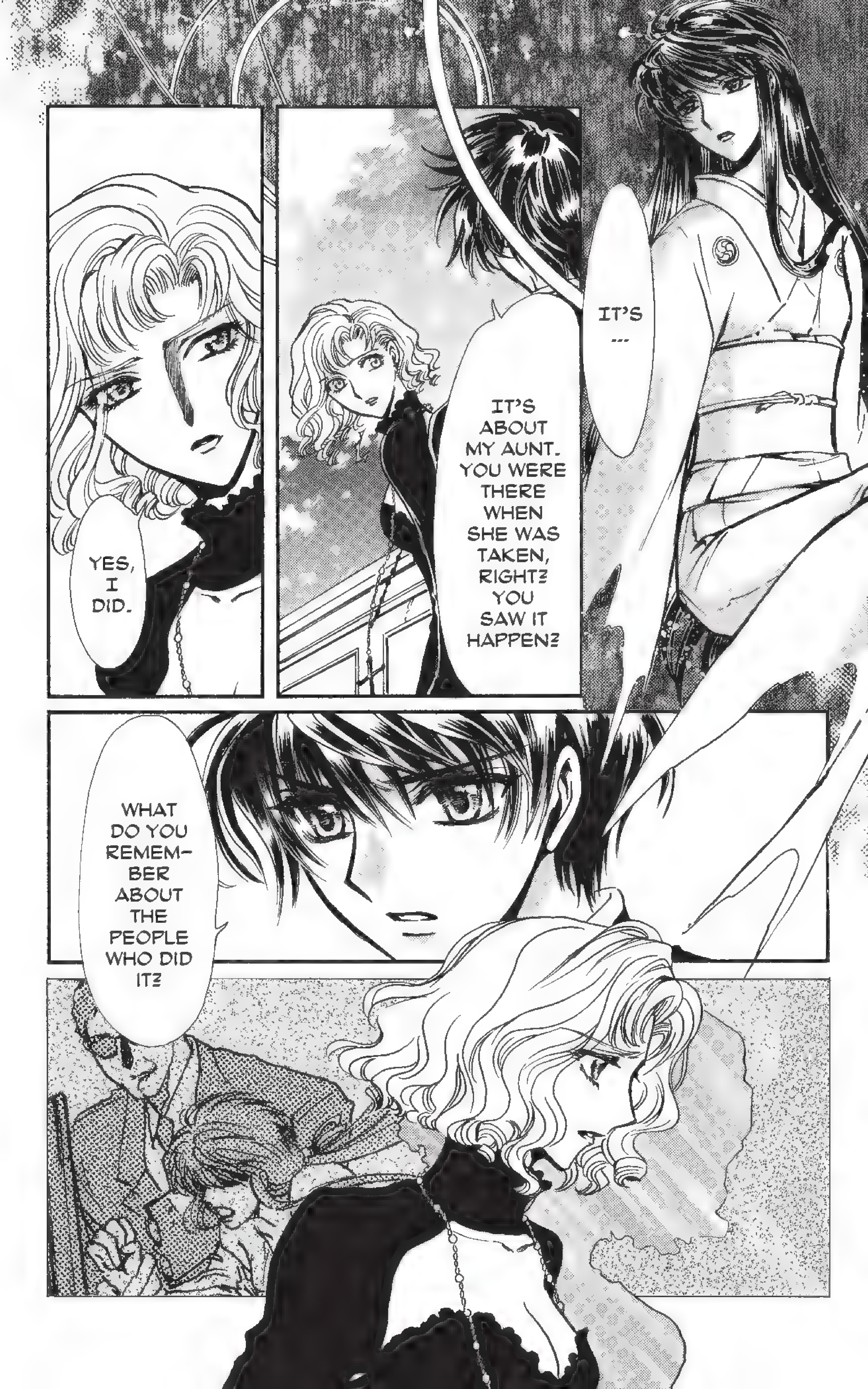

THE ...
THE KAMUI OF THE SEVEN ANGELS KILLED KAZUKI.
BUT ...
...HE SAID SOMETHING TO ME ... ... JUST AFTER.
HE SAID, "IF NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO KILL SOMEONE ELSE...
"...THEN WHY DO PEOPLE LOSE SIGHT OF WHAT MATTERS MOST?"
WHAT MATTERS ... ... MOST?

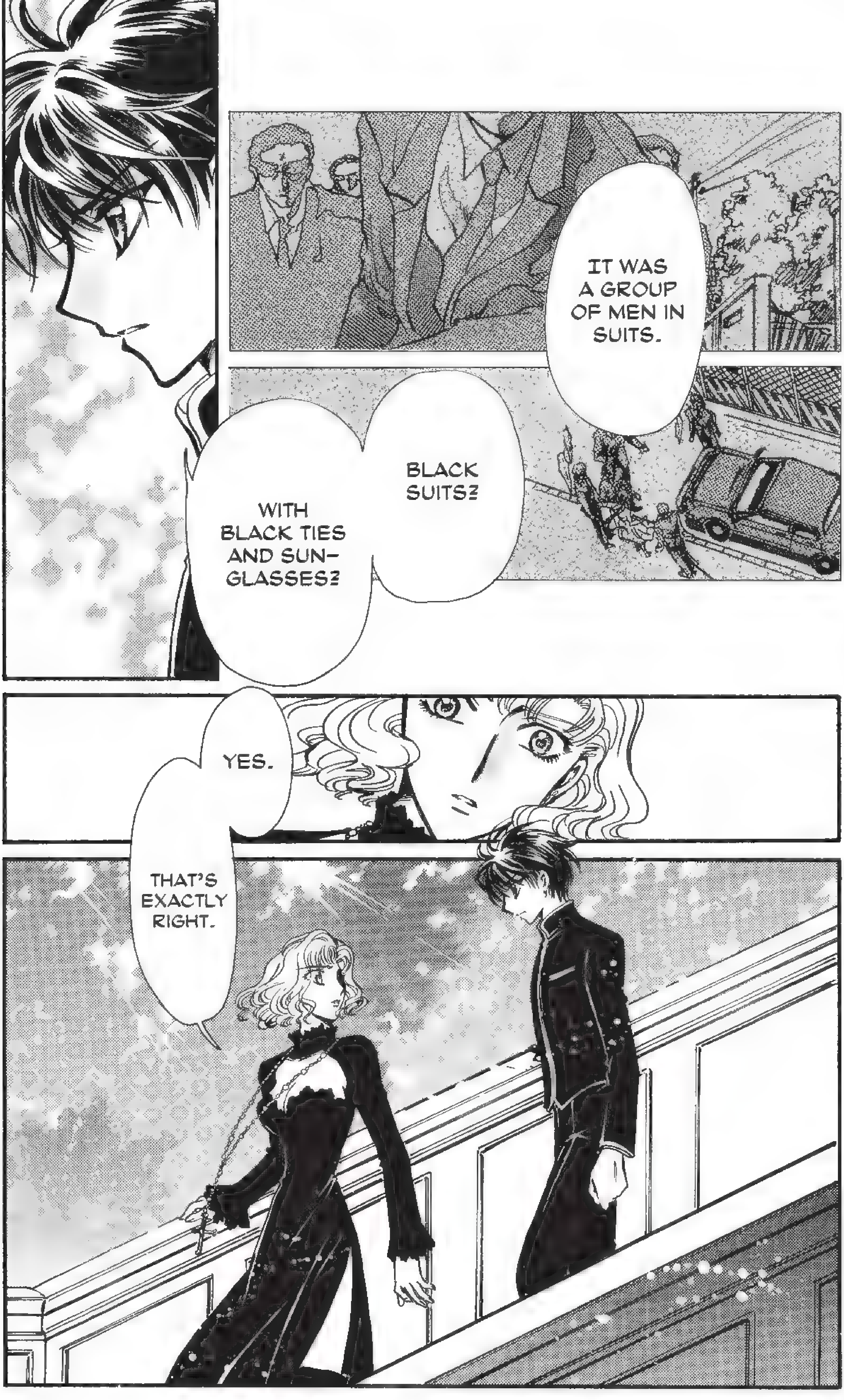

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT?
I'M NOT SURE IF I HAVE IT RIGHT EXACTLY.
BUT I THINK HE WAS TALKING ABOUT ...
...SOMETHING THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT...
...BUT STILL VERY EASY TO FORGET.
THE MORE WE LOVE SOMEONE, THE MORE WE CAN BE BLINDED BY IT.
AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, WE CAN END UP HURTING THE ONE WE LOVE.


I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE FORGET THAT.
I'VE DONE IT.
MAYBE YOU HAVE TOO.
ME... TOO?
YOU SHOULD ASK FUMA.
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL THE OTHER KAMUI, RIGHT?
NEXT TIME YOU MEET, ASK HIM TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.

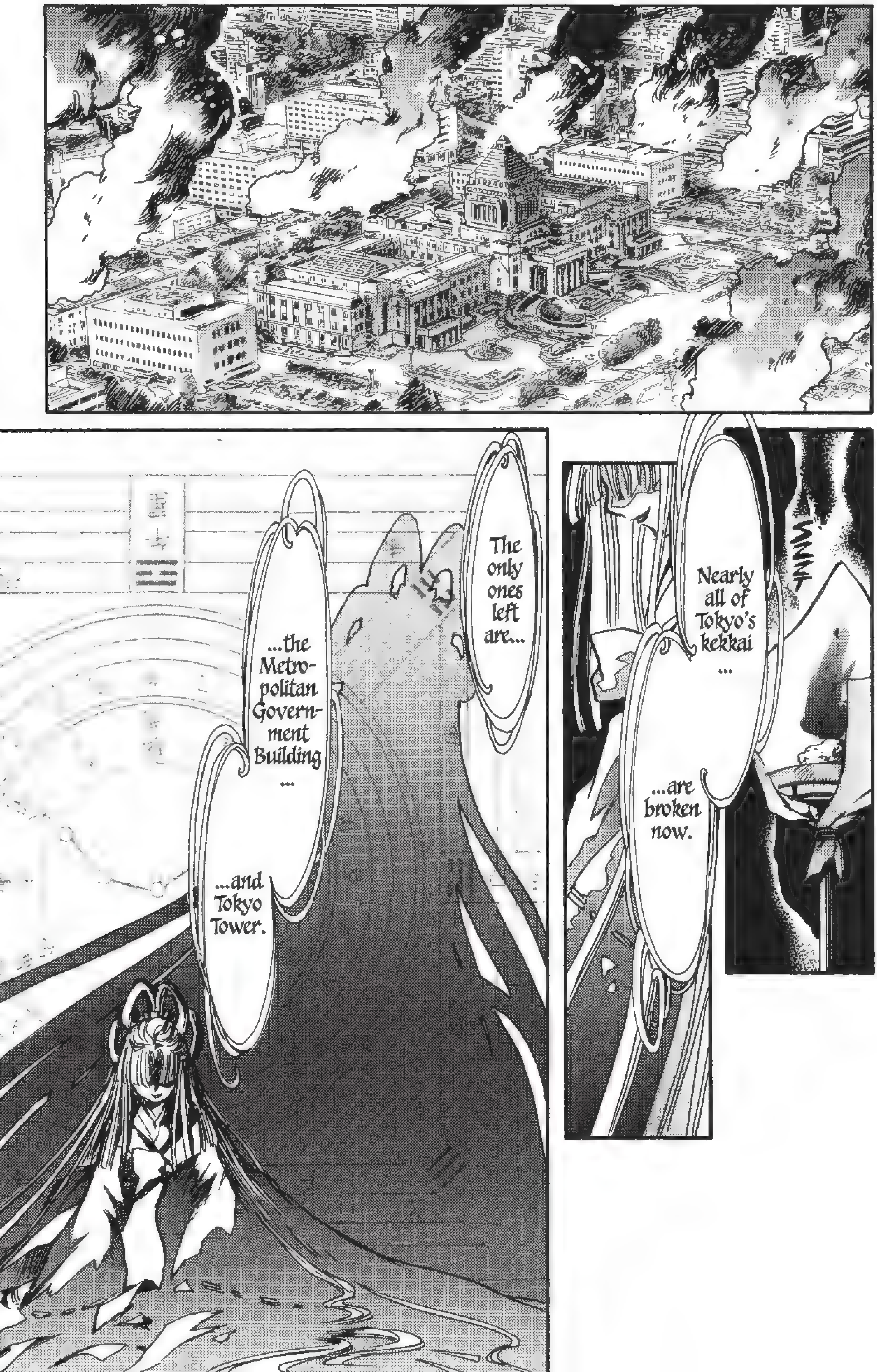

YOU DO INTEND TO SEE HIM AGAIN ...
... DON'T YOU?
BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BRING FUMA BACK?

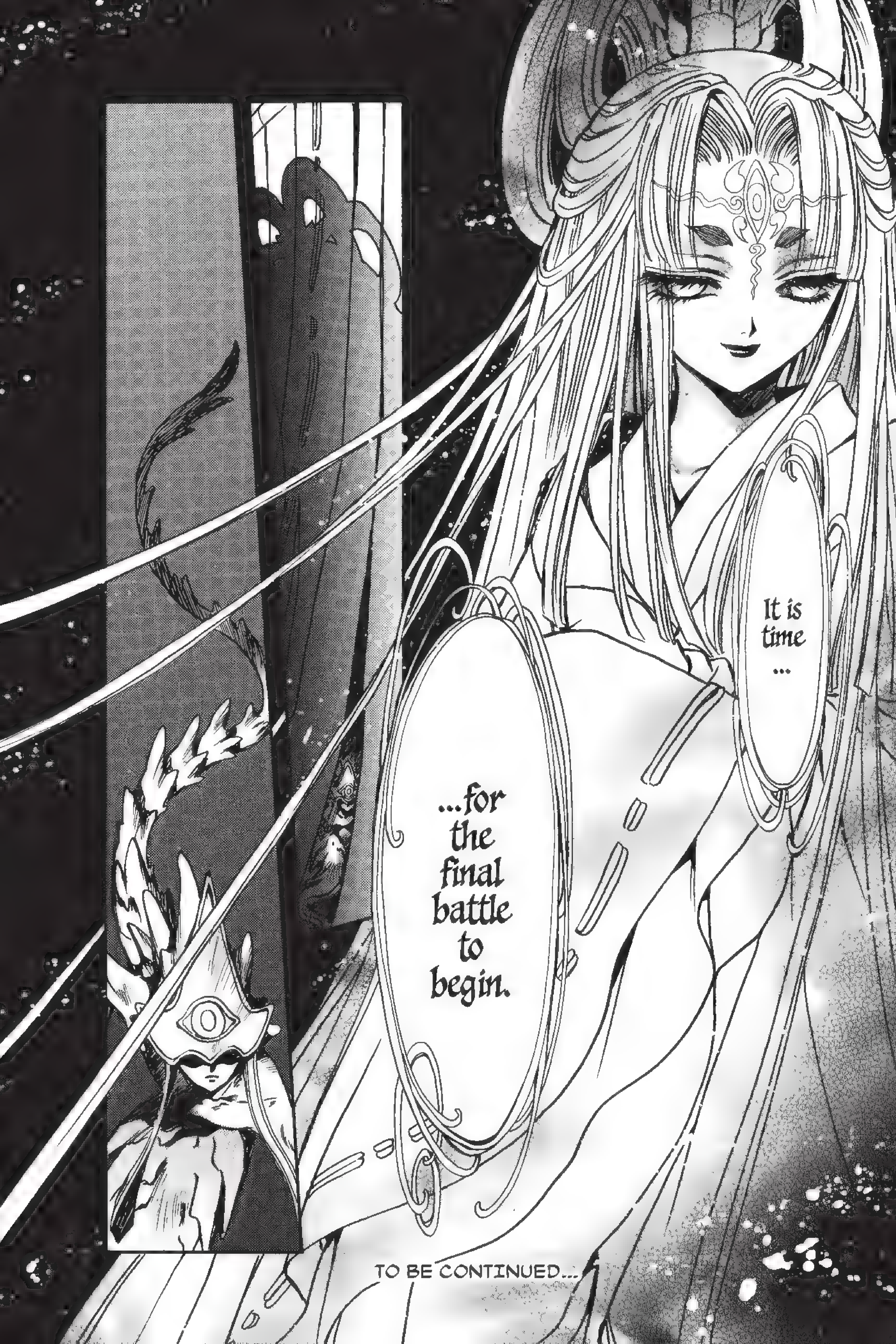

YES.
WELL, THEN!
DID YOU COME OUT HERE TO FETCH ME?
UH ...
THAT WAS ONE REASON.
SO THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE ON YOUR MIND?
DID YOU WANT TO SPEAK WITH ME ABOUT IT PRIVATELY?
ZOD


IT'S ...
IT'S ABOUT MY AUNT. YOU WERE THERE WHEN SHE WAS TAKEN, RIGHT? YOU SAW IT HAPPEN?
YES, I DID.
WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO DID IT?


IT WAS A GROUP OF MEN IN SUITS.
BLACK SUITS?
WITH BLACK TIES AND SUNGLASSES?
YES.
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.

THE SAME ONES ...


VNNN
Nearly all of Tokyo's kekkai...
...are broken now.
The only ones left are...
...the Metropolitan Government Building...
...and Tokyo Tower.


It is time ...
...for the final battle to begin.

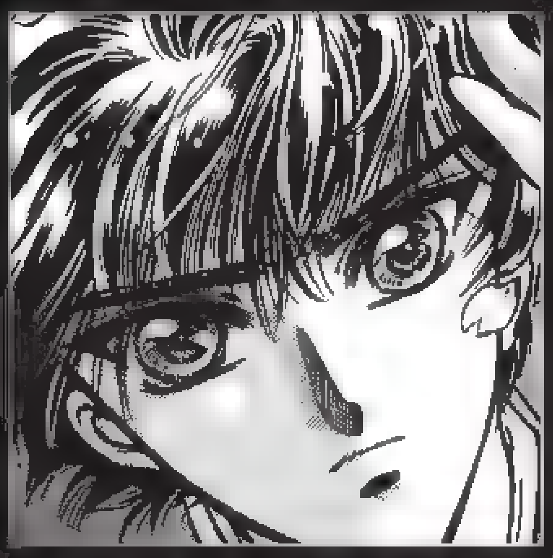
TO BE CONTINUED...

X

END VOLUME 6

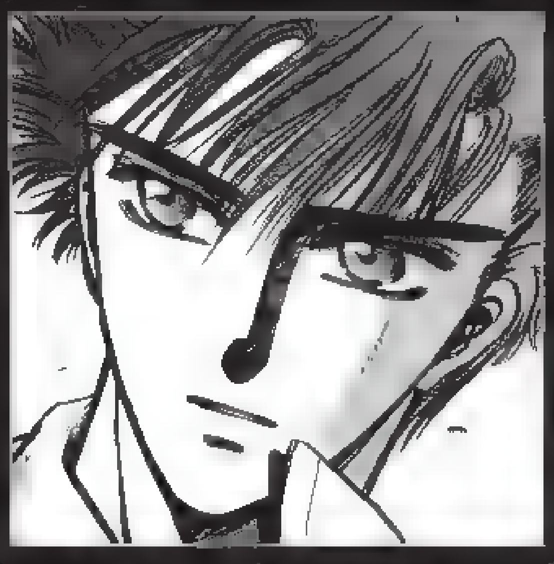
# X

## CAST OF CHARACTERS



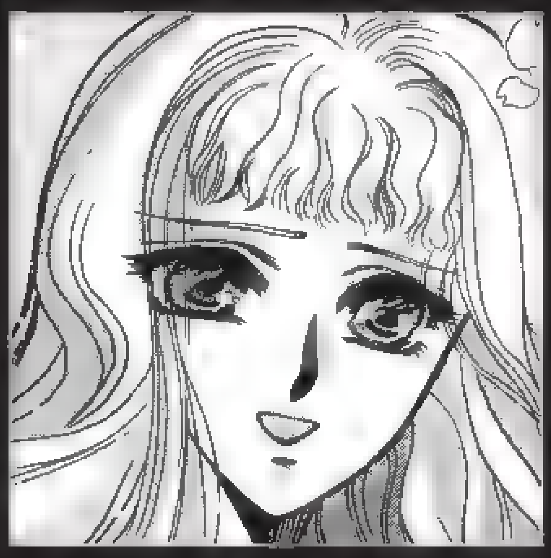
**KAMUI SHIRO**

A young man possessing tremendous arcane powers, he is at the center of a prophecy concerning the end of the world.



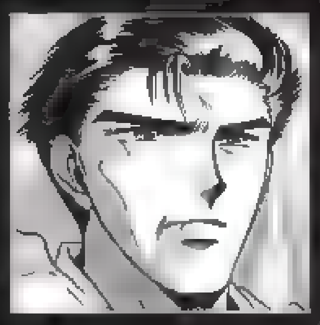
**FUMA MONOU**

Kamui's childhood friend and Kotori's brother. He too is involved in the prophecy, ordained by fate to be Kamui's "twin star."



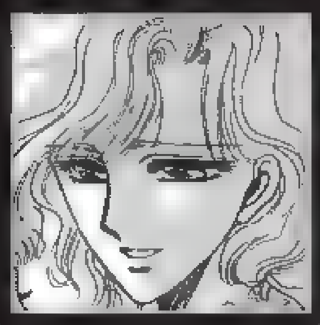
**KOTORI MONOU**

Fuma's little sister, and one of Kamui's closest childhood friends. The workings of the prophecy brought her life to a tragic end.



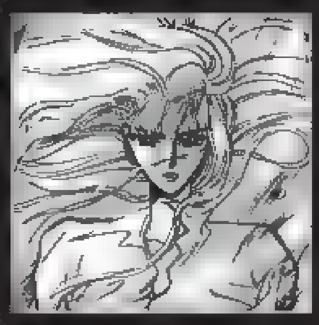
**KYOGO MONOU**

Fuma and Kotori's father, he was the priest of the Togakushi Shrine and guardian of the Sacred Sword.



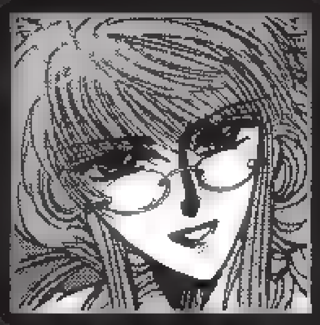
**SAYA MONOU**

Fuma and Kotori's mother. She gave up her life in order to bring the Sacred Sword into being.



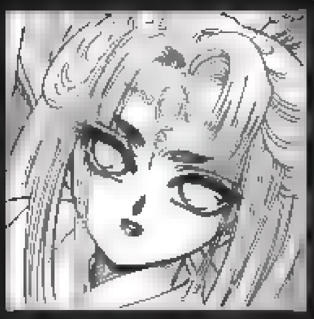
**TORU SHIRO**

Kamui's mother. A descendant of an ancient family of "Shadow Sacrifices" who have the power to avert the misfortunes of others, she sacrificed herself to protect Kamui.

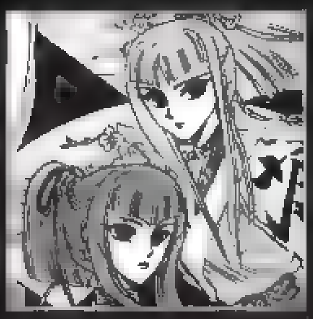


**TOKIKO MAGAMI**

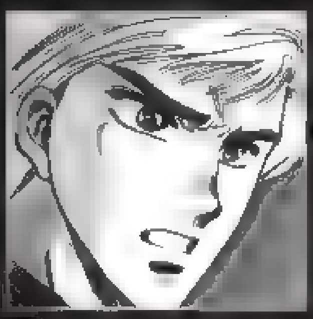
Toru's younger sister and Kamui's aunt, she died giving birth to the second Sacred Sword.



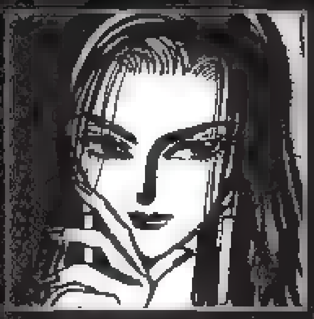
**HINOTO**
A blind seer who is able to read the future through dreams. She has foreseen the end of the world, and her vision places Kamui at the heart of the cataclysm to come.



**SOHI & HIEN**
Hinoto's loyal attendants.

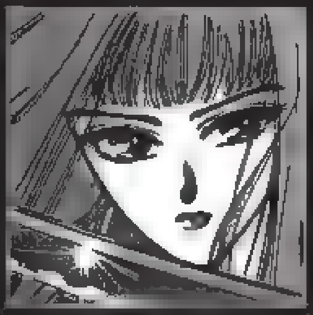


**DAISUKE SAIKI**
Seiichiro Aoki's nephew. A young wind user, he gave his life to protect Hinoto.

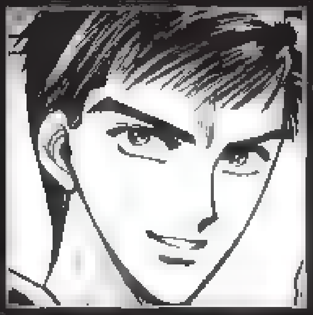


**KANOE**
Hinoto's younger sister, she also possesses the ability to see the future through dreams. But the destiny that she wishes to bring about is different from the one that Hinoto desires.

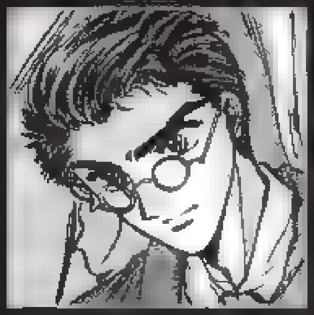
## THE SEVEN SEALS



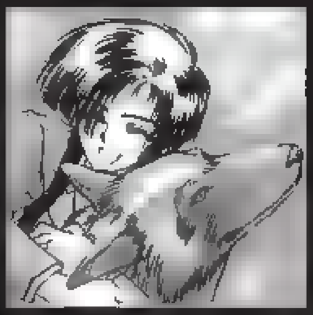
**ARASHI KISHU**
Raised in the Shinto shrine of Ise, she fights by summoning a sword from the palm of her hand.



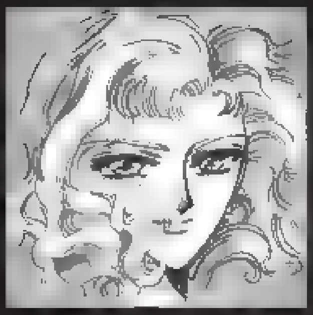
**SORATA ARISUGAWA**
A priest from the Mount Koya Buddhist temple complex, he has sworn to protect Kamui with his life.



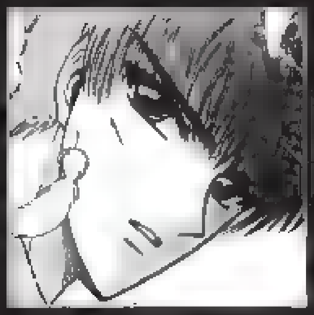
**SEIICHIRO AOKI**
A harried manga editor with a gentle demeanor, he is also a wind master and a skilled fighter.



**YUZURIHA NEKOI**
The youngest of the Seals, she is always accompanied by her dog spirit, Inuki, that only she and others with psychic powers can see.

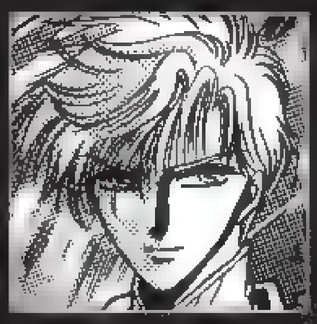


**KAREN KASUMI**
A fire user who works in a soapland (massage parlor), she endured a traumatic childhood because of her powers.

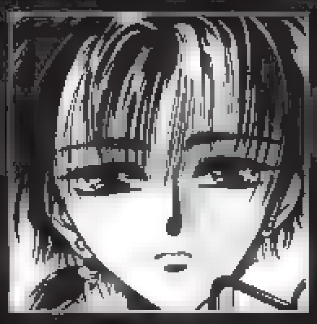


**SUBARU SUMERAGI**
The 13th generation leader of the Sumeragi Clan, the most powerful users of *onmyo* magic, he shares a deep bond with Seishiro Sakurazuka.

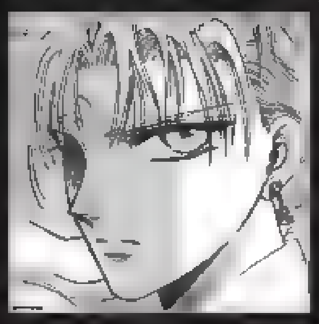
## THE SEVEN ANGELS



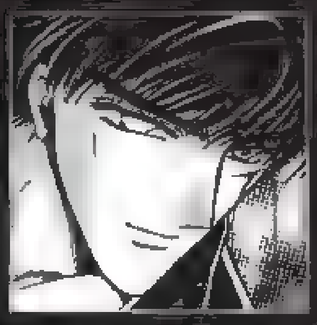
**YUTO KIGAI**
Working as a civil servant by day, he is a water master whose playful demeanor hides a cold-blooded essence.



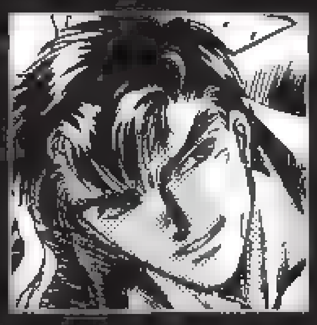
**SATSUKI YATOJI**
A genius with computers, she shares a special bond with the machine she built, the "Beast."



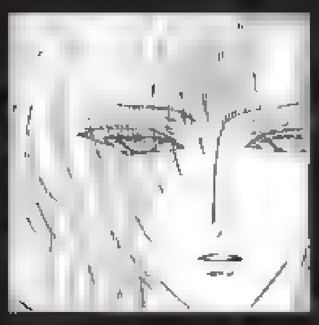
**NATAKU**
A genetically engineered human androgyne, Nataku wields a ribbon-like length of cloth as a weapon.



**SEISHIRO SAKURAZUKA**
A skilled *onmyoji*, he is the Guardian of the Cherry Blossom Barrow, last in a line of hereditary assassins. His fate is intertwined with Subaru Sumeragi's.



**KUSANAGI SHIYU**
Physically imposing but gentle at heart, he is extraordinarily attuned to the natural world. An active service member of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.



**KAKYO KUZUKI**
His powerful dreamgazing abilities manifested when he was very young, but after losing someone important to him, he became an invalid.

# NOTES ON THE TEXT

## FAMILIAR

The word translated as "familiar" is *goho*, which in Japanese is written with the characters for "protect" and "dharma." As the name indicates, *goho* are spirits or minor deities that protect and serve high-level Buddhist practitioners.

## KEKKAI

A magical barrier or shield. In the world of *X* there are two different types of kekkai. The first is the individual barrier fields that the Seven Seals create in order to protect their surroundings from damage during a battle. The second is a huge magical ward that protects the entire city of Tokyo.

## ONMYODO, ONMYOJI

*Onmyodo*, or the "way of onmyo," is a school of magical practice based on the esoteric philosophies of Yin-Yang and the Five Elements (fire, earth, metal, water and wood). *Onmyoji*, or "masters of onmyo," are adepts who can use their magic to perform rites such as exorcism, purification, and divination.

## SHIKI

Commonly called *shikigami*—but shortened to *shiki* in *X*—these are spirits or minor deities summoned to serve *onmyoji*. Shiki can be conjured in different ways, but the most frequently depicted method is to bind them to a paper talisman infused with spells.

## SHINGON BUDDHISM

One of the major historical sects in Japan, it is considered to be one of the more mystical branches of Buddhism. It places a greater emphasis on religious experience over doctrine, and a significant aspect of its practice is the transmission of esoteric teachings. For these reasons, it is also referred to as "Esoteric Buddhism."

# ILLUSTRATION COMMENTS

**PAGE 3**

1993 *X* Calendar Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: Holbein Color Ink (Special Black)
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

Back then many people asked me, "Is this Hokuto? Or Subaru?" The answer to that question will become clear sooner or later [*laughs*].

**PAGE 4-5**

2000 *Monthly Asuka* November Issue, Title Page Illustration

There were never plans for this illustration to be used in separate halves, but I still wanted to draw something that could be split in two, and that's how I ended up with this composition. The colors and poses used for Subaru and Seishiro are inverses of each other. The two are bound together by a single red thread, but that thread is also meant to echo the spider web. I drew a spider web pattern on the kimono as well. It's an image of the hunter and the hunted. Obviously Seishiro has the upper hand [*laughs*].

**PAGE 1**

2000 *Monthly Asuka* August Issue, Title Page Illustration

This one was actually drawn on hotel stationery, which happened a lot with the X illustrations. Hotels provide very good paper, you see [*laughs*]. I can't use the sheets for very large pieces though. I shaded out the background and added sepia around the edges to make it look like an old photograph. The main outlines were drawn with a PIGMA Graphic pen using brown ink. The wings on Kamui's back are a tattoo. I hid his butt a little with the other ones [*laughs*].

**PAGE 2**

1994 *Monthly Asuka* March Issue, Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink

Here Subaru is wearing traditional ceremonial clothes, which he hardly ever wears in the manga. The blade in his hand is one he's had in his possession for a very long time and which he uses whenever he wears the ceremonial robes. I wrote "X" on the blade in blood.

### PAGE 190

2003 *Monthly Asuka* February Issue, Title Page Illustration

Since this was for a February issue of *Monthly Asuka*, I used snow in the image. You may be surprised to know that Kusanagi actually appears in quite a lot of illustrations with snow. Since he works for the Self Defense Force, I had him wear a military-style coat. But the composition was rather bland with only that, and I wanted to add something else. Then I saw Hidetoshi Nakata, the soccer player, wearing an extremely long scarf on TV. So that's why Kusanagi's wearing a long scarf too [*laughs*].

### PAGE 362-363

2005 *X Ø (ZERO)* Art Book,
Exclusive Illustration for New Edition

This illustration was created for the new edition of the X Ø art book. Ohkawa (Ageha) had given me orders to differentiate the covers of the two art books by making one look Japanese and the other look Western, and to use a dark red color for one and a dark blue for the other. So I had Kamui wear kimono-like clothes and made the small objects around him look Japanese as well. The dragons, which go with both the background and the pattern on the kimono also have a Japanese air.

### PAGE 364-364

2005 *X ∞ (INFINITY)* Artbook,
Exclusive Illustration for New Edition

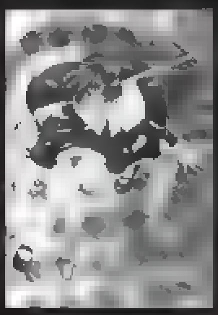
This illustration of Fuma is meant to be a counterpart to the one of Kamui in the new edition of X Ø. It was created to have a more Western atmosphere. He's wearing something that looks like a clerical garment, and the dragons have a Western fantasy look to them too. Since the background is blue, I made the dragons look like aquatic animals, with smooth skin, pale hues, and fin-like wings. The whole idea of drawing seven dragons in each of the new illustrations may have been a little too ambitious, since it took me a really long time to complete this.

### PAGE 366

2002 *Monthly Asuka* August Issue, Title Page Illustration

Nataku is smiling in this illustration because I drew it after the death scene in the main story and wanted something to cheer me up. An image of the gates of heaven opening onto the land of bliss…or something like that. A sad figure who died a long time ago when young but who was then forced to keep living by unnatural means, now finally freed... Nataku was based off a character designed for a video game that had a quasi-Chinese setting but was never made, so Chinese-looking clothes are a default for him.

### PAGE 6



2002 *Monthly Asuka* April Issue, Title Page Illustration

This illustration is meant to look like a colorized panel from the actual manga, so I used screen-tones for the background. The white area of the uniform and the hilt of the sword were done with color ink. The gold areas are in color ink too, but the eyes, shadow, and hair were drawn with Copic markers. As you can see, Yuzuriha's shadow is a large Inuki.

### PAGE 7

2001 March, *X* Volume 16, Cover Illustration

A back-cover illustration from one of the X manga volumes. The title on the front cover was printed in a gold-brown ink. The Magami family seems to have a cursed fate flowing in their blood. This isn't a horror movie story, but it's definitely something like "It's all because of the bloodlines." [*laughs*]. But then again, the Sakurazukamori aren't that better off either. In this illustration, at first glance they appear to be two sisters who are close to one another, but there's also a dark and ominous atmosphere that exists between them. Part of the kimonos' patterns were done with acrylic gouache, and the gold areas were done in poster color.

### PAGE 186-187

2000 *Monthly Asuka* August Issue,
Title Page Illustration

I was aiming for a "Fake Kung-fu Action Movie" type of illustration [*laughs*]. Sorata's pose looks like it belongs in a fighting manga, and he's wearing something that looks like a champion fighter's belt too [*laughs*]. I used a present someone sent to us as a visual reference for drawing the braided cord. Thank you very much; it was a big help. The background and character lines were done mainly with color ink, but I also used some modeling paste for the rubble.

### PAGE 188-189

1999 *Monthly Asuka* August and
September Issues, Cover Illustrations

This is an illustration I drew with the intention of splitting it in half down the middle. The background is meant to look like a factory or plant of some sort. Compositions like this lose their sense of unity unless an element from each half is included in the other half, so I had Kamui reach his hand over and place it on Fuma's knee. They're also joined together by a handcuff.

PLANNING AND PRESENTATION BY **CLAMP**

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# X

STORY AND ART BY **CLAMP**

3-IN-1 EDITION
## VOL. 6
VIZ Media Edition

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